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HINTS TO ELECTORS.

THE decision of the Commons on the motion of Mr. Whiteside about Kars, must not be taken as evidence of the strength of the Ministry. There was a muster of very many different parties for the special occasion; but it does not follow that Palmerston is safe on general questions. All things, in short, induce us to think that a dissolution must happen before long. The state of the House is perfectly chaotic—it is a mass of political atoms whirling without harmony. A new House will soon be inevitable, to bring the Parliament and the country into proper relations. And there is nothing like being in good time, that, by means of proper organisation in counties and boroughs, our electors may be prepared to play their part when they get the opportunity. On the next Parliament will depend the whole question—what we have learned from the war, whether we mean to act upon its experience, or whether we mean to acquiesce in the same kind of management over again, when the occasion arises.

The war will be one great card of a number of men. They will claim our regard for their conduct of it. We had best be strict in exacting from these persons a plain detail of their merits. For ourselves, we can see but few statesmen who have acquitted themselves more than respectably. Palmerston and Clarendon have, on the whole, been the most successful; but the army had pretty well righted itself, by help from home, before Palmerston came to power, and the triumph at Sebastopol was their own. Besides, there is Kars to set against the account of that Ministry, and Kars fell for want of men and money, which they could not manage to supply, though the country has grudged neither throughout. A man like Palmerston must always play a great part, but a Ministry of his own is too much for him to expect to have long. What policy, what plans, has he, more than any other of the old Whig clique? Those who fancied that he had any tenderness for Poland or Italy—one of the unaccountable delusions of late years—must have seen by this that he is as much at the mercy of the established order of things in Europe as any other man, and that, whatever vigour he has to spare is never launched so unflinchingly against any Power as it has been of late against America. We admire him as much as most people, but we do not see how the country can trust to him for a guidance or a policy in the period of social amendment which we hope is to come. He is an administrator and a debater—a man of infinite managing talent, shrewdness, and vivacity. But one associates him with nothing—with no special inventiveness of plan, or no special principles. It seems hard to conceive a Ministry doing without him; but his *forte* is carrying out things—not creating them. We cannot fancy a Palmerston party. We can fancy him having imitators, but we cannot fancy his having disciples. He has no doctrine. Lord John represents a system—a poor one, no doubt, but it is a system. Pam is himself! He can only go to the country as an immensely clever fellow, and ask the country to tell him what to do. The country wants a doctrine. It requires a man or men who can first show what they are going to do, and who have, next, the power to do it. There will be a delay, we suppose, and a postponement of the dissolution, till something has

been found to differ about, and the parties have a question to fight upon. Given that, Palmerston would probably be strong. His personal *prestige* is great. Nor are we slighting his personal *prestige*. We are only saying, that as a Premier aspiring to command a Ministry after the election, his position is dubious, for want of a policy. And when a man comes to us in our electoral capacity, and tells us he is a Palmerstonian, we shall demur to the description as indefinite. We shall admit that as far as the war is concerned, Palmerston has done best, where nobody has done well. And we shall reserve our vote for a man with distinct measures.

In our opinion, all men who have played false during the war should be flung out or kept out. As far as in them lay, they have done ill for England. Judgment, they cannot have had; for in spite

the essence of exclusiveness, the soul of routine. You think the war has taught such men? Pooh! it has only puzzled them, or frightened them. They think that it has blown over; and that all ought to go on as before. And all *will* go on as before, if you elect their kind of men. Their attorneys will be down upon you with a tenth cousin, and as many preparations for bribery as they dare make; and if you take them, you must take all that follows. We should like to see a committee of independent men in every town and county, inquiring into the present Member's votes and speeches, and looking up the probable men of the district. We say of the district, for under ordinary conditions, it is as well to take men of whom you know something personally. We do not advocate your being at the mercy of a society of political jobbers, or of individual jobbers.

There are independent gentlemen to be met with in most places—good substitutes for hack politicians. We should like, also, to see a *new* Parliament—a fresh one. The Long Parliament was one; and though it did some acts which must ever be regretted, it was as grand an assembly as ever met in Europe.

As for the Administrative Reformers, we do not know what course they are going to take. If they stick to their old profession of disregarding all place-hunting, and making men abjure place-hunters, we shall think better of them than we have lately. It is jobbery—high and low—which is the curse of our political system. We are responsible for it; the upper classes only practise it on a greater scale.

It is the fashion—for the predominant tone of public life among us is cynical, and nobody despises the public like a thorough-going politician—to despair of all improvement based on popular efforts. When the old cliques are assailed, they reply, that you cannot get men whom the system cannot corrupt:—
"Illic, Hypolytum pone, Priapus erit."

You may elect Cleon Cloutaby, say they, and we will send him as Attorney-General to Patagonia. Where, then, is your reformer? And if Cloutaby goes to Patagonia, why should not the Hon. Jasper Sacrilege ruin the cavalry?

This is very plausible; and not the less so, that it presumes a large element of scoundrelism in the country. We recommend our electors to inquire into it. One thing is clear, that the country wants men—that the cliques will not have them, if they can keep them out—and that your only course is to force the cliques through the constituencies. Have you pluck enough to try this, and to cleanse the system by popular

energy, as the sewers are cleansed by the rising tide? For this purpose, on a reasonable scale, the present suffrage is large enough; any much wider extension of the suffrage, would possibly have the effect of swamping those who have property and education, and would leave you only demagogues to choose from, or bribers. England will soon have to decide between renewed constitutional action, or renewed revolutionary action. We want to see the first tried while there is yet time; and we are sure that it is strong enough for the purpose, or that what it cannot do will be done by time, education, and the substitution of competition for patronage. We shall return to these subjects—keeping the distant dissolution in our eye—as good opportunities offer.



THE EARL OF CARDIGAN, COMMANDER OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE IN THE CRIMEA.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY BARNARD.)

of mismanagement, the war has not been the failure *they* thought it would be. Pluck, they cannot have had, or they would have believed more in England. They have been trimmers with despotism, or flunkies of the Bomba interest, or pig-headed Benthamites panting for dishonourable millenniums and middle-class rule, or political traders who feared for the "system," or, in any case, short-sighted, faint-hearted creatures. Of course, Lord John will always be a considerable personage—thanks to Woburn. But an independent constituency can, at least, fight shy of followers of Lord John. He is now an arrant failure: as a statesman, in the war; as a Whig, in the House; as a legislator, in his Education scheme. To back up *him*, is to back up the "old system" with a vengeance—oligarchic coalitions,

MAJOR-GENERAL THE EARL OF CARDIGAN, K.C.B.

THE appearance of this dragon-Earl before the military court instituted to investigate the somewhat serious charges of the Crimean Commissioners, has brought him once more prominently before the public. Once more, we say, for assuredly few peers, whether pursuing pleasure or politics, war or literature, are better known by name to the people of England. Whatever his real character, the Earl of Cardigan has long had the reputation of being an incarnation of pride, scorn, hauteur, recklessness, and many more of those qualities that preclude a privileged class from the enjoyment of popular favour.

Fastidious genealogists, we are aware, rather sneer at Lord Cardigan's patrician airs; but the truth is, that among so many aristocrats whose names are unknown in the books of ancient heralds, whose bearings have not been won on fields of fight, but purchased with gold, and whose highest aspirations may be to continue hereditary killers of vermin, his pedigree is by no means contemptible. Dugdale tells us that the family of Brudenell, before becoming distinguished, "was settled for divers ages at Dean, in the east part of Northampton;" and others trace them to the age of the earlier Plantagenets. But however that may be, the real founder of the house of Cardigan was a Brudenell, who, when the Tudors were on the throne, took to the law, and became Chief-Justice of the Common Pleas. His son, who figured among the Peers of England as Lord Brudenell, fought so well and suffered so much for the first Charles, that the restored Stuarts advanced him to the Earldom of Cardigan; and the sixth successor to his coronet is the celebrated personage with whom we have now to deal.

James Thomas Brudenell was, according to our peeragemongers, born at Hambleden, on the 11th of October, 1797. He was first known to the world as Lord Brudenell, and having, with that title of courtesy, graduated at Christ Church, Oxford, he appeared in the House of Commons, first as Member for Marlborough and Fowey, and afterwards as Knight of the Shire for North Northampton.

While thus exercising senatorial functions for twenty eventful years—without, so far as we recollect, aspiring to political distinction—Lord Brudenell, in 1824, commenced his military career as cornet in the 8th Hussars. His promotion was so rapid, that before the close of 1830, he had attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel; and having, in 1832, joined the 15th Hussars in that capacity, he set himself, with exemplary spirit, to increase the efficiency and comfort of his corps. He failed, however, to secure the concurrence of his officers, and while the regiment was stationed at Cork, a series of disputes led to the Court-martial and acquittal of Captain Wathen. Lord Brudenell, upon whom this affair brought much unpopularity, in consequence of all the unpleasantness connected with it, withdrew from the command of the 15th Hussars.

A year or two passed over; and, in 1836, the heir of the Cardigans was appointed to the 11th Hussars, his connection with which subsequent events rendered memorable. He soon after succeeded to his Earldom, and signalled himself by spending large sums—about ten thousand a year—in improving the condition of his regiment. One example of his munificence may be given. A remount of his men was, on one occasion, ordered by the Horse Guards; he added as much as £2,500 to the regulation price; and the horses of the 11th Hussars became celebrated as the best in the service. At the same time he spared no expense to make the accoutrements of the men correspond with his idea of what an English regiment should be; and Lord Cardigan was getting into favour with the public as a cavalry officer, eager to do his duty, when the "Black Bottle" quarrel opened up a new scene, and was followed by events which exposed him to years of obloquy.

Somewhere in the year 1840, while the 11th Hussars were at Canterbury, Lord Cardigan upbraided one of his officers, Captain Reynolds, with degrading the mess to the level of a pot-house, because he had caused Moselle to be placed on the table in "a black bottle!" This led to something like offensive expressions; and Captain Reynolds, having been put under arrest, demanded a court-martial, and was, as the public thought, somewhat harshly refused.

While the "black bottle affair" was still exciting a good deal of interest, Lord Cardigan got into a still more serious scrape. It appears that the Noble and Gallant Earl was reported to have talked insultingly before company of another of his officers; and the latter, whose name was also Reynolds, wrote a polite note, begging his Lordship's authority to contradict the rumour. To this request no answer was vouchsafed, and a second note, couched in the language of exasperation, was treated as a challenge. The two epistles were, with due formality, laid before a court-martial, and found to be so "insubordinate, ungentlemanly, and insolent," that Captain Reynolds was cashiered.

Meanwhile, clouds had gathered in another direction. One morning it seems, a letter containing severe strictures on Lord Cardigan's conduct appeared in the "Chronicle." The letter was anonymous; but the writer proving to be Captain Harvey Tuckett, a hostile meeting was agreed upon. Wimbledon Common was the scene, and the 15th of September, 1840, the date, of this memorable duel. The first shot was ineffectual; at the second, Lord Cardigan wounded his antagonist. He soon fell into the hands of a constable, and was, of course, committed. He demanded to be tried by his Peers; and on the 16th of February, 1841, the House of Lords sat as a criminal court for that purpose. Many of our readers doubtless remember the extraordinary interest which this trial, from its novelty and other circumstances, created throughout the country. Lord Denman, in the absence of the Chancellor, enacted the part of Lord High Steward, and presided with that stately courtesy which characterised him. Everything, however, availed well for the accused. Capt. Harvey Tuckett had fortunately recovered from his wound; and the prosecution was conducted by Sir John, now Lord Campbell, in the tenderest spirit. Besides, the evidence, somehow or other broke down, from the absence of proof that the person engaged in the duel bore the name of Captain Harvey Tuckett, as alleged in the indictment, or even, that such an individual had been on Wimbledon Common on the day in question. Thus it happened, that Lord Cardigan was not required to make any defence; and the House, after due deliberation, gave a verdict of "Not guilty." The Lord High Steward then asked every Peer by his name, beginning with the junior Baron, "How says your Lordship—is James Thomas, Earl of Cardigan, guilty of the felony whereof he stands indicted, or not guilty?" Whereupon, each standing in his place, uncovered, and laying his right hand upon his breast, answered, "Not guilty, upon my honour," except the Duke of Cleveland, who answered, "Not guilty legally, upon my honour."

For years succeeding the day of his acquittal, little was heard of Lord Cardigan, save in military circles. There he continued to enjoy a high reputation as an accomplished officer of cavalry, and one singularly jealous of the honour of his corps. Somewhere in 1848 he received an official letter from the Horse Guards, stating that the Duke of Wellington had expressed great satisfaction with the discipline and efficiency of the 11th Hussars, and desired it to be known that the state of the regiment was considered by him highly creditable to its commanding officer, Lord Cardigan. He had not, for a long time, come into hostile contact with public opinion, but his unpopularity was still lingering around him, when war with Russia became inevitable. Having been promoted to the rank of Major-General, he went to the East in command of the Brigade of Light Cavalry.

Lord Cardigan, in his new sphere, soon won the credit of being a dashing leader, and manoeuvred with such skill, that he was generally regarded as a trusty warrior.

While the English army was at Varna, as it was not well known in what position the Russians were, he was despatched by Lord Raglan, with the Light Cavalry, to discover what had become of them:—

"You can easily imagine," said his Lordship, "that this was rather an anxious undertaking, and one that required the exercise of considerable caution on my part. We might have come at any time upon the Russian army—upon the Russian outposts. We travelled over the country, which I may call a perfectly wild desert, for a distance of 300 miles. My orders were to proceed 130 miles as far as Trajan's Wall, on the confines of the Dobruksa. We did so, and marched 120 miles without ever seeing a human being. There was not a single house in a state of repair, or that was inhabited, along all this route, nor was there an animal to be seen except those that exist in the wildest regions. Having ascertained that the Russian army had returned by Babadagh, and given information to

the Commander-in-Chief upon that subject, I then proceeded on a very interesting march, patrolling along the banks of the Danube to Rustchuk and Silistria, and returned thence by that great fortress, Schumla."

At length the Allies landed in the Crimea, and Lord Cardigan was employed to cut off some Russian cavalry, supposed to be retreating to Simpheropol. These were not to be found, however; and, at the Alma, the Light Cavalry not being employed in the action, he was precluded from winning a share of the laurels. "We sat upon our horses," says he, "under a heavy fire for a long period, and in that position we witnessed the glorious exploits of our brother soldiers."

Such had been the achievements of the Earl of Cardigan, when it was rumoured in England that on the occasion of the Russians attacking Balaklava on the 25th of October, 1854, he had performed, or at all events played the chief part in, an exploit entitling him to rank with the greatest of our historic heroes. On that day—so ran the story—Lord Cardigan, while at the head of his brigade, received from Lord Lucan, his brother-in-law, an order to recover the guns abandoned by the Turks. Lord Cardigan, it appears, deemed the enterprise rash to temerity; but he knew that it was his duty to obey, and he obeyed. He mounted his splendid chestnut charger, cast an anxious glance at his scanty ranks, placed himself at their head, and said to an aide-de-camp, "Well, here goes the last of the Cardigans!" He then gave the order to "charge;" and straightway that "hurricane of horse" burst upon the Russians. The fearful result is well known. "Each bosom was a Russian target;" and of the gallant six hundred who rode into the "valley of death," no fewer than twenty-six officers, and two hundred and seventy-six non-commissioned officers and private soldiers fell to rise no more. In the words of one of our poets—

— "They went down that day
A legion, and came back from victory
Two hundred men, and glory."

When the accounts of this matter reached England, the daring valour exhibited, with "the terror and the splendour of the charge," captivated the public imagination; and Lord Cardigan was proclaimed a hero. Not a word was heard of the neglect which has subsequently been alleged against him. On the contrary, everybody was ready to sing his praises. Immediately on reaching this country, he was welcomed with intoxicating applause. The Corporation of Northampton hastened to present him with a laudatory address; the Lord Mayor of London and the guests at the Mansion House were so eager to treat him as a hero, that even Lord Cardigan "fought his battles over again," and began to believe in himself; and the men of Yorkshire testified their admiration by subscribing for "a Mamaluke dress sabre, with a double scabbard." He was, moreover, nominated Inspector-General of Cavalry; and while re-organising that arm of the service for the Crimea, cheered by the multitude so tremendously, that at times he appeared somewhat disdainful at the excess of their enthusiasm.

While matters were in this state, some doubt as to his having been a hero at Balaklava took possession of the public mind; and ere long the charges advanced by the Crimean Commissioners swept his popularity away, as the wind scatters leaves. But, after all, his admirers need not despair. Time avenges truth; the people of England are just and generous; and, no doubt, they will ultimately accord to Lord Cardigan that measure of praise and honour to which he is entitled.

The accompanying portrait is taken from a photograph coloured in oils by Mr. Barnard, of Regent Street.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

THE ceremony of churching the Empress was performed on Thursday week. Her Majesty remained during the whole of the ceremony in an easy chair. The inference is that her Majesty is not so strong as might be wished.

Count de Morny will not only represent the Emperor of the French at the coronation of the Emperor of Russia at Moscow, but will remain provisionally as Ambassador at St. Petersburg.

A significant letter, addressed to the Prefet of Police by the Minister of the Interior, lately appeared in the "Moniteur." It is there said that, since the powerful impulse given to national industry by the Emperor, a class of men has arisen, who mingle in undertakings for which concessions are necessary, and pretend their great influence in high places, their secret intelligence, their power of raising difficulties or causing them to disappear. Of these pretended influences a complete trade is made. The Emperor, therefore, desires the public to understand, that, in matters which concern the nation, personal influence is proscribed, and notifies that the police will bring under the operation of the penal code persons offending as described.

The annual service for the repose of the soul of Napoleon I. was celebrated on Monday, in the chapel of the Tuilleries, by the Bishop of Arras. The Emperor and the Court were present. A similar service was performed in the church of the Invalides.

It is rumoured that Prince Oscar of Sweden will leave Stockholm on May 10, for Paris, to be present at the baptism of the Imperial Prince.

Detachments of troops from the Crimea have already arrived at Toulon. A reduction of 52,000 men in the effective strength of the army is decreed. The King of Wurttemberg arrived on Saturday night in Paris. The King, who is the brother-in-law of Prince Jerome Bonaparte, and the oldest sovereign in Europe, travels under the title of the Baron de Teck.

Trade has greatly improved in Paris since the proclamation of peace.

BELGIUM.

COUNT WALEWSKI's speech at the sitting of the 8th April, in which he endeavoured to constitute the Paris Conference an alliance against the press, has not been passed over by the Belgian Chamber of Representatives. M. Orts, a member of the Left, has given notice that he intends to address certain interpellations on the subject to the Government, and particularly to the head of the Department for Foreign Affairs.

SPAIN.

THE Madrid journals repeat the statement that the Emperor of Russia will shortly recognise Queen Isabella.

The Government functionaries of Valencia who gave up their arms to the insurgents in the recent rising have been dismissed. Valencia was tranquil, and, at Malaga, where disturbances were apprehended, the drawing of the conscription took place with perfect order.

The "Madrid Gazette" of the 29th ult. contains the following remarkable paragraph:—"In consequence of what some foreign journals have recently published on the affairs of Spain, it appears that a high personage has had a conference with the Queen, and that her Majesty declared that she would sooner lose her crown, and the hope of her daughter's accession, than suffer any foreign nation to intervene in our affairs."

AUSTRIA.

THE evacuation of the Danubian Principalities has already begun, but it is believed that the whole army of occupation will not have returned before the beginning of October. Eight months will elapse, it is said, before the Danubian Principalities are entirely free from foreign troops, but the whole of the Turkish territory, including Moldavia and Wallachia, must be evacuated within six months from the day on which the treaty of peace was signed.

PRUSSIA.

THE King closed the session of the Chambers on Saturday with a long speech, in which he exhorted the maintenance of peace at home, now that it had been established abroad.

The King has conferred the Order of the Black Eagle on the Emperor of the French.

RUSSIA.

AN Imperial manifesto, published at St. Petersburg, announces that the coronation of the Emperor will take place at Moscow, in August.

General Soukhovianet is gazetted Minister of War, and Prince Gortschakoff Minister of Foreign Affairs.

A reduction in the Russian fleet is effected. Three divisions will be sta-

tioned in the Baltic. The Pontus fleet will retain the denomination of the "fleet of the Black Sea."

The Minister of the Interior, Lanskoi, has addressed a circular to the Marshals of the various Governments and provincial colleges of nobility, calling upon them to assist the Emperor in healing the wounds the war has inflicted, by increasing the general welfare of the people. The circular further points out the necessity of preserving the obedience due by nobles to their "hereditary masters," and this Christian virtue is indicated in the serfs under pain of the Emperor's high indignation. The nobility is also called upon to make provision for the soldiers now being discharged from the army.

The Russians have commenced the evacuation of the fortresses of Roud and of Ismail.

The Russian army is to be completely re-organised, and the regiments divided into four or five battalions of 1,000 or 1,200 men each, as in Austria.

The irregular troops in the Crimea are to be disbanded.

The ice in the Neva is breaking up. The navigation in the Gulf of Riga was re-opened on the 26th of April.

ITALY.

THE official "Gazette" of Parma denies the fact of any augmentation of Austrian troops in the Duchy of Parma. The Duchess Regent has gone, leaving the exercise of civil authority in the hands of the Austrian military commandant.

In Genoa, it is said, that the differences between Naples and the Western Powers are in course of arrangement, and that an amnesty on a large scale may be expected.

The Sardinian Government has published the treaty with its annexes and protocols in a popular form. The latter have caused a great sensation. A correspondent at Turin writes that nobody is pleased with the result of the conferences, but all are well satisfied with Count Cavour, who arrived at Turin on the 29th, and met a most enthusiastic reception. The first brigade of the National Army has returned from the Crimea with only three sick.

Count Cavour has taken the administration of Foreign Affairs, and has laid before the Chamber very important documents on the affairs of Italy.

An intention is ascribed to the Pope of protesting against the inculcatory declarations of Count Walewski's speech.

GREECE.

THE Greek Government is indignant at the speech of Lord Palmerston on the deplorable state of Greece. A paper containing the speech was ordered to be publicly burnt, and accordingly done. Just at this moment further acts of brigandage occurred in the provinces, when French and English troops were ordered to the scene of outrage. This act produced fresh irritation, and the Government immediately drew up a protest against the Anglo-French occupation of Greece. The argument used in this significant note is, that the occupation is no longer necessary after the establishment of peace.

TURKEY.

THE corps of Bashi-Bazouks, formed by England in Mesopotamia and the neighbourhood of Damascus, which was in garrison at St. Jean d'Acree, under the command of Colonel Bruce, lately deserted nearly in a body; of 1,200 men, only 46 remained with the Colonel. The remainder withdrew to Kerve, three leagues from Damascus, and addressed to Mahmoud Pacha a message in writing, in which they set forth that they would no longer remain in the service of England under the flag of the Cross. Colonel Walpole, however, acting by command of the Turkish and English authorities, succeeded in effecting the return of 350, who are to be embarked at Beyrout, under a promise of not being sent to India.

A Circassian deputation has arrived at Constantinople; it is composed of 200 persons.

AMERICA.

THE United States mail-steamer *Washington* arrived at Southampton on Sunday. A battle has been fought between the Costa Rican forces, under General Mora, and the Nicaraguan army, under Colonel Schlessinger, in which the latter have been beaten. We have little or no detail. At the ports of Costa Rica, the story was that the Costa Ricans were the assailants, and that Schlessinger had been attacked behind his intrenchments, near the Hacienda de Santa Rosa, and his 400 men put to flight by 500 Costa Ricans. Another statement reports that Colonel Schlessinger's force was only 250 men; that the Costa Ricans numbered 1,000; and Colonel Schlessinger was not wholly routed, but had taken up a strong position, which he thought he could hold. Another story said that twenty of Walker's men had been made prisoners, and that they had either already been, or were about to be, shot; the Costa Rican account adding, that at the hour the mail closed the news of their death had just arrived. Later news reports General Walker's prospects to be improving. There had been another fight; in which the Costa Ricans were defeated, with 30 killed. Schlessinger is brought to trial for cowardice.

In Oregon and Washington Territories, the Indians were continuing their depredations, and the war was carried on with renewed vigour. From present appearances, it will be some time before the refractory red men can be subdued in those quarters. The Superintendent of Indian affairs reports:—

"The present difficulty in Southern Oregon is wholly attributable to the acts of the whites. The future will prove that this war has been forced upon the Indians against their will, and that, too, by a set of reckless vagabonds, for pecuniary and political objects, sanctioned by a numerous population who regard the Treasury of the United States as a legitimate object of plunder. The Indians in that district have been driven to desperation by acts of cruelty against their people."

AUSTRALIA.

LATE advices from Sydney, per the *Ellenborough*, which arrived on Sunday, describe the affairs of the colony as being anything but encouraging. Failures were frequent, and liabilities heavy. Political affairs were also in an unsettled state.

THE EASTERN DISTURBANCES.

AN insurrection is reported to have broken out at Mecca. The Scheriff, who had been dismissed from his post, refused to give it up, alleging the infidelity of the Sultan as his excuse. He is supported in his resistance by 50,000 armed Arabs, who, it is said, refuse entrance into the city to the pilgrims, under pretence that the Ottoman Empire is defiled.

The "Journal de Constantinople" only speaks of the disturbances at Nablous; and announces that the most energetic measures have been adopted against all perturbators.

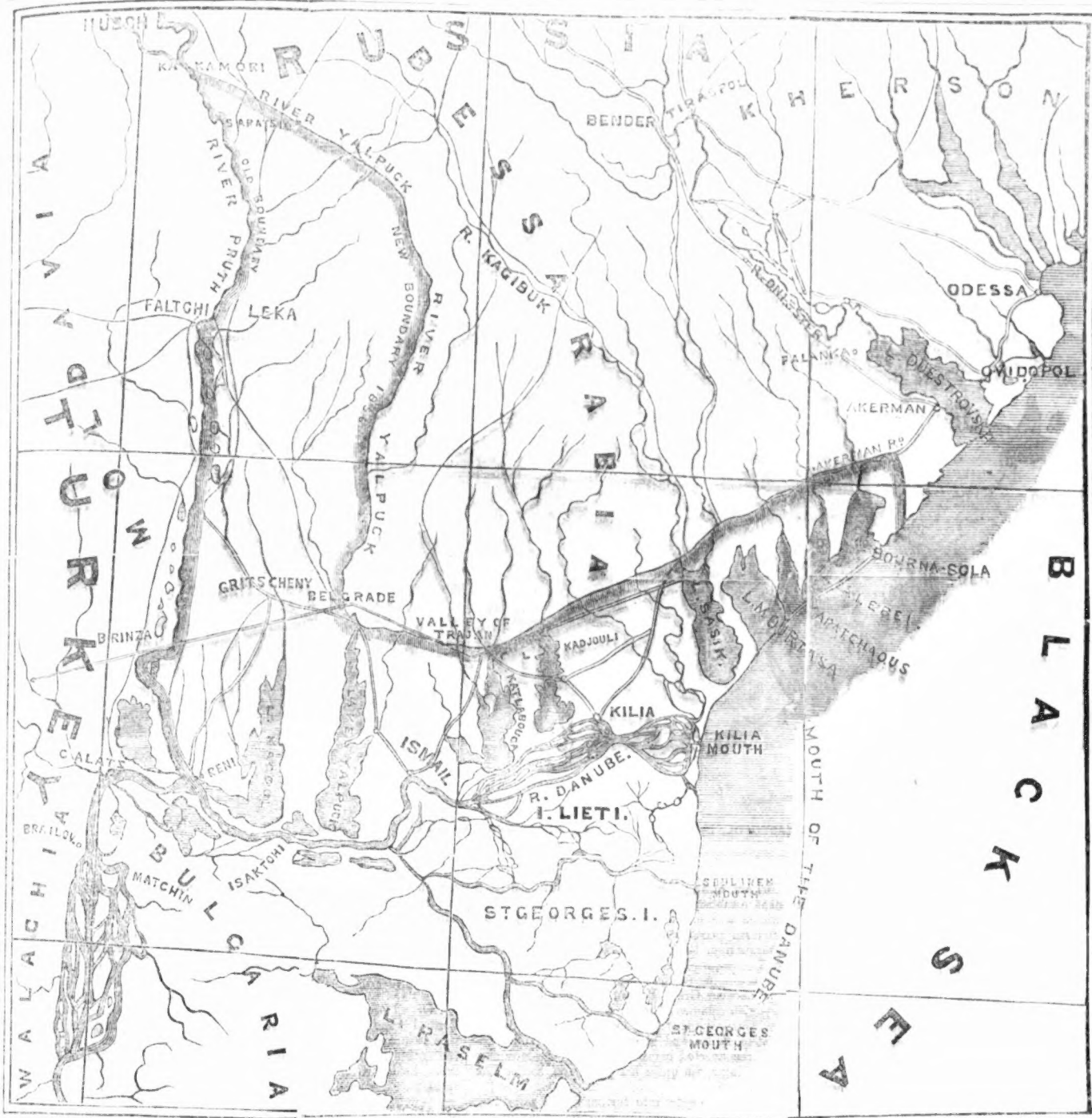
A very interesting letter, from a native Protestant in Nablous, has been received, detailing the outrages perpetrated there on the 4th of April: how the enraged Moslem took down the French flag and dragged it through the streets; how the crowd went to the Protestant church and school of the English bishop, and broke the bell, which had been hung up after the arrival of the firm of equality—pulled down part of the wall, broke the windows, and burnt the books; how next they attacked and destroyed the Greek church, and, finding three Christians, wounded them, and left them for dead; next, how they attacked the house of the English consul, plundered it, tore down the English flag, and dragged it through the streets; entered the room of the consul's wife; found Simon Cawar, father of Said, Prussian agent, killed him with twenty-eight wounds, dragged him to the stable, and there left him; concluding with the murder of the acting Prussian agent.

TREATY BETWEEN THE ALLIES AND AUSTRIA.

A TREATY between her Majesty, the Emperor of the French, and the Emperor of Austria, guaranteeing the independence and integrity of the Ottoman Empire, was signed at Paris on April 15. The treaty consists of the following two articles:—

Article 1. The high contracting parties guarantee, jointly and severally, the independence and the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, recorded in the treaty concluded at Paris, on the 30th of March, 1856.

Article 2. Any infraction of the stipulations of the said treaty will be considered by the Powers signing the present treaty as a *casus belli*. They will come to an understanding with the Sublime Porte as to the measures which have become necessary, and will without delay determine among themselves as to the employment of their military and naval forces.



MAP SHOWING THE RECTIFIED FRONTIERS OF THE RUSSIAN AND TURKISH EMPIRES.

THE AMERICAN "DIFFICULTY."

THE American "difficulty," to use a word of most sanguineous meaning in America, seems approaching solution. The series of papers relating to this subject which was laid before both Houses on Friday week, concludes with a despatch by Lord Clarendon, dated April 30, 1856, so distinct in its terms, and so conciliatory in its tone, as to lead us to hope that it will virtually terminate the whole correspondence.

In this despatch, Lord Clarendon not only exhibits the present state of the question, but resumes the history of the differences between the two governments. He shows, that previous to the 28th of December, the correspondence had been of a loose, miscellaneous, and even irregular character. Now the correspondence was conducted at Washington, then in London; sometimes Mr. Marcy rested his case on the alleged violation of municipal law, at others he put it forward as a breach of public law; now Mr. Buchanan expressed his satisfaction at Lord Clarendon's explanation, and then the next mail brought him a note of further accusations to present. It was not till the 25th of December that Mr. Marcy discussed the real value of the grievances complained of, and then his requests for satisfaction rose into the demand for Mr. Crampton's recall. It is to this note of the 25th of December that Lord Clarendon mainly replies. He says that in endeavouring to enlist a Foreign Legion in the British North American provinces, the British Government only sought to avail themselves, at the utmost, of the liberty accorded to citizens of the United States, or residents therein, to leave their territories, and enlist in foreign armies elsewhere, when they do so of their own free will, and without any previous contract or engagement. The intentions of the British Government, and the arrangements made to carry them into execution, were frankly stated by Mr. Crampton to Mr. Marcy in a conversation on the 22d of March, 1855, and the only observations which Mr. Marcy made in reply were, that the neutrality laws of the United States would be rigidly enforced, but that any number of persons who desired it might leave the United States, and get enlisted in any foreign service. Up to this point, therefore, there was no misunderstanding, and no difference of opinion as to the legality of the course which the British Government intended to pursue.

But the British Government soon found that it would be difficult to prevent the execution of the contemplated arrangements from being attended by circumstances which might give rise to discussions between the two Governments. Therefore, and with the mere purpose of avoiding such discussions, the British Government sent out to Canada and to Nova Scotia, on the 22d of June, 1855, orders to discontinue all proceedings in the matter.

A fortnight after these orders had been despatched, Lord Clarendon received a note from Mr. Buchanan, alleging that the neutrality laws of the United States had been infringed, and stating in conclusion that the President would be much gratified to learn that her Majesty's Government had not authorised the proceedings, but had condemned the conduct of its officials engaged therein, as well as taken decisive measures to put a stop to the proceedings. To this Lord Clarendon replied, on the 16th of July, that if the law of the United States had been infringed, her Majesty's Government deeply regretted it; but that it was contrary to the wishes and positive instructions of the Government, and they had no reason to believe that their instructions had been disobeyed; moreover, that orders had already been sent out to put an end to the arrangement for enlisting within the North American Provinces persons who might come there from other places.

Mr. Buchanan himself concluded that when that note should have been received, the Government of the United States would be satisfied with its contents. For a considerable time this conclusion appeared well founded. On September 5, however, Mr. Marcy addressed a note to Mr. Crampton, not alleging that fresh subjects of complaint had arisen since the receipt in America of the British orders of the 22d of June, but going back to the same transactions and the original complaints, as if no notice had been taken of Mr. Marcy's former representation, as if no regret had been expressed, and as if no measures had been adopted to put an instant stop to the proceedings out of which his complaints had originated. Lord Clarendon then repeated the representations contained in his note of the 16th of July. In reply to the demands of Mr. Marcy, the British Government denied that any illegal proceedings were, so far as they knew, committed by its officers or authorised agents, and therefore they had none to disavow, and no officers or agents to deal with as offenders; further adding, however, that if it could be shown that any men had been improperly enlisted, they should immediately be discharged and sent back to the United States.

It might naturally have been supposed, says Lord Clarendon in the last despatch, of which we give an abstract, that the correspondence would here have ended; but it was not so. Mr. Marcy again writes on the 28th of December, recapitulating the complaints of the United States Government, and now insisting that the enlistment in Nova Scotia of persons coming thither from the United States was a violation of the policy of the United States, and that not to respect that policy was an offence on the part of Great Britain against the sovereign rights of the United States.

In reply to this, Lord Clarendon observes that the policy of a nation in regard to its internal arrangements must be sought for in the laws of that nation; and what those laws forbid it must be understood to be the policy of the State to prohibit, and that what those laws do not forbid it must be understood to be the policy of the State to allow. Now, by the law of the United States, and according to the previous admission of Mr. Marcy himself, it appears not to be forbidden to citizens of the United States, who may have used their natural right of quitting the United States, to enlist into the service of a foreign State when they have left their own country. Therefore Lord Clarendon argues, that the British Government were not blameable in accepting, on British territory, recruits who had come of their free will from the United States.

Moreover, in this despatch of the 28th Dec., Mr. Marcy asks for the recall of her Majesty's Minister at Washington, and of her Majesty's consuls at Philadelphia, New York, and Cincinnati—still on the ground of the original complaints, and mainly on the evidence of Hertz and Strobel. Now Mr. Crampton, writes Lord Clarendon, positively and distinctly denies the charge brought against him; he declares that he never hired, or retained, or engaged a single person within the United States for the service of her Majesty, and that he never countenanced or encouraged any violation of the law of the United States. The consuls at New York, Philadelphia, and Cincinnati equally deny the charge; and her Majesty's Government refuse to set the assertions of men like Hertz and Strobel (whom Lord Clarendon asserts, and transmits inclosures to prove, are unworthy of credit) against the declarations of the gentlemen whose recall is demanded.

Lord Clarendon's despatch concludes with the earnest hope of her Majesty's Government that these explanations and assurances may prove satisfactory to the Government of the United States, and effectually remove any misapprehension which may have hitherto existed; and he cannot doubt that such a result will afford as much pleasure to the Government of the United States as to that of her Majesty, by putting an end to a difference which has been deeply regretted by her Majesty's Government.

MESSRS. HERTZ AND STROBEL.

A few particulars as to the character of Hertz and of his worthy condutor Strobel are set forth in the Blue Book (lately published) on the American question. They are comprised in certain affidavits, from one of which we learn that Hertz informed one Lobb that he had made 500 dollars out of his trial at Philadelphia. From another, it is proved that Hertz, while in the employ of Messrs. Scherr and Gerner, liquor dealers of Philadelphia, swindled Mr. Scherr out of sundry sums of money, in collusion with Gerner. It is next sworn that Hertz obtained a couple of watches under false pretences; subsequently giving up one, on condition of being allowed to keep the other. As to Captain Max Strobel, it is affirmed to be notorious that he is in the pay of Russia; and that the sum of twenty-five dollars a week is openly stated to be received by him for his services.

Such are the men whose testimony is received in a case involving the honour of gentlemen, and the peace of nations. Our readers will not be displeased with a sight of a letter by one of these German "meneurs" to our Minister at Washington.

"Sir!—I hope that your excellency will be a gentleman against me. One day my lady told me: 'Look out what you do, and trust not to match.' I answered her: 'If I don't find more a place, I am sure to find satisfaction, then an Englishman is every time a gentleman.' Now, Sir, I must hear every day: 'You see now what kind of gentleman you did find in the English Government!' And indeed—Sir Gaspard le Marchant treated me in a very mean manner, like a man out of the case of the people. He don't know, that I am out of a family as good as him self, and I lik to be a gentleman forever, and I cannot be wehn you don't give me satisfactioun. I can give you any security for my [? illegible]. I got letters to some gentlemen in the U.S. service, to gentlemen of power; this letter will be given to you—if you be a gentleman against me. Sir! in ENTHOUSIASME for her glorious Majesty I lost now my existence. It is the same with me, likewise the 1,100 men in the West. I am sure that her Ma-

esty will never be satisfait with such a treat o gentlemen, who like to go in her Majesty's service. And you can expect that I will and CAN find my right, and if it must be before the throne I put a cousin in London—an ambassador of a German kingdom—the next cousin to my lady! Think you that he will do nothing for my lady! I know also some other men in London, who know to find the way to her glorious Majesty every day! Then, sir, I am ruined, without my fault; then Sir Gaspard can not speak that I didn't done my bestness! That was an very simple intrigue of Mr. Preston. Sir! satisfait me now, and you will find out that I like to do every time like a gentleman. In the best trust to your Excellency, I remain, &c., "Dr. Reuss."

"Washington, August 11, 1855, 11 o'clock.
"P.S. I didn't understand how Sir Gaspard could treat a man in such a manner—a man who is seduced by his name, and who gave up his place and existence for his call!!! It is in deed, to much for the logic of a man of philosophy and reason."
"Yours," "Dr. Reuss."

NAPOLEON'S VIEWS OF THE WAR AND THE PEACE.

A PAMPHLET, which in the political language of the day may be called semi-official, and undoubtedly conveying the ideas of the Emperor, has just been published at Paris. It gives a sketch of what has been done in the late Conferences, points out the advantages gained by the arms and diplomacy of France, and indicates with sufficient clearness what is likely to be the future course of French statesmanship. Here follows a brief abstract of its contents:

The author reviews briefly the position of Russia after the fall of Sebastopol. Of that great event the world did not immediately perceive the importance. But the successes of the S-a of Azof, of Sebastopol, and subsequently of Kinburn, were deadly blows. Russia had lost in men, resources, and even in self-confidence, more than the most sanguine had thought. A Power geographically nearer, and, as a neutral, better informed, more truly appreciated the situation. It was then that Austria entered more completely into the course laid down by the engagements of the 2nd of December. The Cabinet of Vienna undertook to present terms to St. Petersburg, strengthened by an ultimatum of its own. But, says the writer, the Allies were willing to leave as little as possible to diplomacy. They had had experience of Viennese negotiations in 1853, which produced the famous Note, and a Viennese conference in 1855, in which Prince Gortschakoff was able to alternate offers and retractions, as if making sport of Europe. France and England knew their power, and would fix their conditions. To those conditions Austria assented, agreed to present them, and promised that if they were not accepted within three weeks she would break off all relations with the Court of St. Petersburg, and place her armies in readiness for a coming campaign. England, says the writer, was little desirous of peace, and less of peace procured by Austrian mediation. She had commenced the war without preparation; she had seen her armies severely tried, and her credit unworthily depreciated; she had since made gigantic efforts, which were likely to be rewarded with much success and fame. A vague feeling of disappointment therefore followed the news of anticipated peace. Let it be added to this, that little cordiality existed between London and Vienna. It was, therefore, creditable to the skill of France that she obtained the consent of England to treat with a worsted enemy through the medium of a suspected ally, while England herself is worthy of all praise for her public spirit and good faith.

Then came the Conferences of Paris, which were held in the French capital at the suggestion of England. The pamphlet announces that the neutralization of the Black Sea was the first point of discussion, and it is shown that the understanding between Austria and the Western Powers was complete before the Conferences were opened. Into the details of the Treaty it is useless to enter. The French writer shows how his country and its Allies have triumphed. The Russian frontier has for the first time receded. Ismail, the most glorious conquest of Suvoroff, is no longer a Russian fortress, and the Pruth, the scene of Peter's disasters and heroism, now flows through Turkish soil. The Czar is without a fleet in the south, while Turkey can send her squadrons up to the highest bays of the Bosphorus, ready to dispel even the dream of danger. The Bug and the Sea of Azof are placed in the same category as the Black Sea. The protectorate of Russia over territories and peoples is forever abolished, while every outlying province, and every Christian people, receive fresh guarantees for liberty. France, says the writer, with great truth, had been in the East too much of a religious partisan, and ended by narrow endeavours to exalt the Catholics at the expense of the Eastern Churches. Russia had then seized her opportunity, and extended her political sway, by the action of Greek fanaticism. The lesson has not been in vain; and now, through Western influence, equal and sufficient rights have been obtained by Christians of every Church. To conclude, the views of the French Government respecting the Danubian provinces are announced. The Cabinet of Napoleon is still in favour of a union and an hereditary monarchy. The opposition of the Porte has, we think, been applauded by the more sound-judging of our own countrymen, who, in spite of the French writer's arguments, are unwilling to see another Otho on the throne of Bucharest, and the most important territory in Eastern Europe under the sway of a camarilla and a priesthood.

Having vindicated the past, the writer attempts to divine the future. Naturally, the contrast between 1855 and 1856 is a fruitful theme for congratulation. The revolutions of France are declared to have been the strength of Russia. A good word is said for the Restoration, but the failures of the July Monarchy are dwelt upon, and it is declared to have been unable to conciliate the Continent, and even to preserve a good understanding with England. The revolution of 1848 is spoken of as might be expected. This unhappy period having closed, France is able once more to fulfil her mission. She will preserve the alliance with England, while Austria is of necessity linked to the Western Powers. The Russian Cabinet is profoundly irritated against its old ally. The Plenipotentiaries of the Czar at Paris made known their sentiments towards Austria by an attitude which escaped no one's notice. Austria must, therefore, cling to the French alliance. France may, then, hope that Austrian necessity and Sardinian goodwill will give her a great part to play in Italy. In the North, Sweden is detached from Russia; in Central Europe, Prussia has been obliged to remonstrate with the Czar, while Saxony and Bavaria have given their adhesion to the policy which the French Emperor has inaugurated. France has recovered all that she had lost by the misfortunes of the first Empire and the aberrations of succeeding Governments. The peace recently proclaimed has placed her in the first rank of the nations, and the press of all countries vies in expressions of gratitude to the Prince who has saved Europe by restoring his own country.

Such are the arguments and congratulations contained in this eagerly-expected pamphlet. The justice of much that has been quoted must be apparent to all, and the whole production is worthy of perusal by those who would learn what has been done and what may be anticipated in a land so nearly linked to our own by alliance and interest.

SHIPWRECK—FIFTY LIVES LOST.—Advices from Australia furnish intelligence of the loss of the British ship *Varoon*, bound to Sydney from Dundee, about twenty miles north-west of Cape Northumberland; every soul on board going down. The number who were on board is not perfectly known; they were reported to be upwards of fifty, including passengers.

LOSS OF THE NEPTUNE BY FIRE.—Intelligence of the total destruction of this fine ship, 1,000 tons register, while lying at anchor, preparing to discharge her cargo, at Menam (China), has been reported at Lloyd's. After burning for twenty-eight hours, she blew up with a tremendous report. She had a most valuable cargo on board, consisting of 500 tons of seal-ture granite (intended for the decoration of the ground of a new temple now nearly completed), 1,000 cases of fireworks, 500 bales of incense paper and rods, 2,100 chests of tea and gold bars of the value of £12,000.



FIRING A SALUTE OF 101 GUNS BEFORE SEBASTOPOL, IN COMMEMORATION OF SIGNING THE TREATY OF PEACE.

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE IN THE CRIMEA.

The proclamation of peace was significant enough, even to us "gentlemen of England who live at home at ease"—to whom war, in its bloodiest aspect, only means more taxes and less trade, with the compensation of a most exciting budget of news for breakfast every morning. Our artist says—and his veracity is undoubted—that it was not exactly so in the Crimea, and on the very field of strife. There, Peace meant Life, as Honour had meant War; so, when it was known that Peace and Honour had arrived together, that was an occasion for real satisfaction indeed.

The proclamation of peace was made to the allied armies by salutes of 101 guns fired by the field batteries of the Light and Second Divisions, from the heights over the plain of Balaklava, by the French batteries at the Quartier Generale, by the Sardinian redoubts at Fedukhine, and by the men-of-war at Kamiesch and Kazatch, at two o'clock, the 2nd of April, the day on which the good news arrived; but an early general order and a very widely-spread rumour had diffused the intelligence among officers and men long before the cannon announced it with their thunderous voices. At Balaklava, the news was known by eight o'clock, and the shipping in the harbour, dressed out with flags, soon presented a gay scene probably than human eye ever witnessed there since it was first discovered by some most investigating, shore-hugging, and fissure-pursuing navigator. It was a clear day, and the effect of the firing from so many points was very fine. The enemy saw the smoke and heard the roar of our guns, but they maintained a stern and gloomy silence. We will forgive that, even if it arose from sheer ill-humour. More charitable still, we hope that they may never again hear the roar of our guns in an angrier mood.

MAHOGANY CUTTINGS ON THE RIVER ULUA.

THE Central American question may be arranged under the following heads: First, what were the rights of Great Britain in Central America, and the position she had assumed previous to 1850? Secondly, what were the causes which led to the treaty called the Bulwer-Clayton Treaty of 1850, and the precise situation in which it was intended that that Treaty should place the contracting parties? Thirdly, what are the difficulties which at this time exist, and how far are they connected with or distinct from the Treaty in question?

The treaties of Great Britain during the last century with Spain, left her, at Belize, a settlement established for the purpose of cutting logwood, and evidently restricted within those limits which the object for which it was granted rendered necessary. By the same treaties Great Britain was bound to withdraw from the Mosquito coast, on which there was a considerable tribe of Indians, who, in her wars with Spain, had acted with her as allies. At the beginning of the present century, a new state of things had arisen—wars between Great Britain and Spain had taken place. After a time, the Spanish colonies of South America had thrown off the Spanish yoke. During these changes and revolutions, Great Britain had enlarged her settlement of Belize, and given to it considerable territorial dimensions; she had reconnected herself, also, with the Mosquito Indians, taking their chief or king again under her protection, having him solemnly crowned at Jamaica.

In this article it is not necessary to enter into further details respecting the various causes of dispute and the changes the questions have undergone. Suffice it to say, that the principal question in dispute between Great Britain and the United States relates to the extension which, since 1786, has been given to the settlement of Belize, and as to the occupation and colonisation of two islands, Ruatan and Bonaca, which have been occupied and colonised since 1850 by Great Britain. This is, after all, the most important question demanding settlement at present, and if the two Governments cannot accomplish this, might it not be effected by an umpire who would in half-an-hour decide as to whether the two islands referred to, are really dependencies of our settlement or of Spanish Honduras.

At present, the precious woods probably constitute the principal items in the exports of the state. The best known are the mahogany and rosewood; the more important in every respect being the former. The mahogany tree of Honduras, so far as its vast size and magnificent foliage are concerned, is entitled to be called the "King of the Forest." In comparison with it, all other trees are said to look insignificant. The enormous size and height of the trunk, the vast spread of its branches, and the space of ground occupied by its roots, are equally remarkable. It is of exceedingly slow growth, hardly undergoing a perceptible increase of size in the narrow span of one man's life. It has been calculated that it requires three hundred years to attain the growth proper for cutting. Some idea may be formed of the enormous size which it sometimes attains from the

fact, that the lower section of a tree seventeen feet long has been known to measure "in the square" five feet six inches, equal to five hundred and fifty cubic, and a weight of seventeen tons.

The mahogany grows in nearly all parts of Honduras, in the valleys of the various streams. It is, however, most abundant on the low grounds which border the rivers flowing into the Bay of Honduras, where it also attains its greatest size and beauty, and where the mahogany works, called "Cortes" (cuttings) by the Spaniards are chiefly confined.

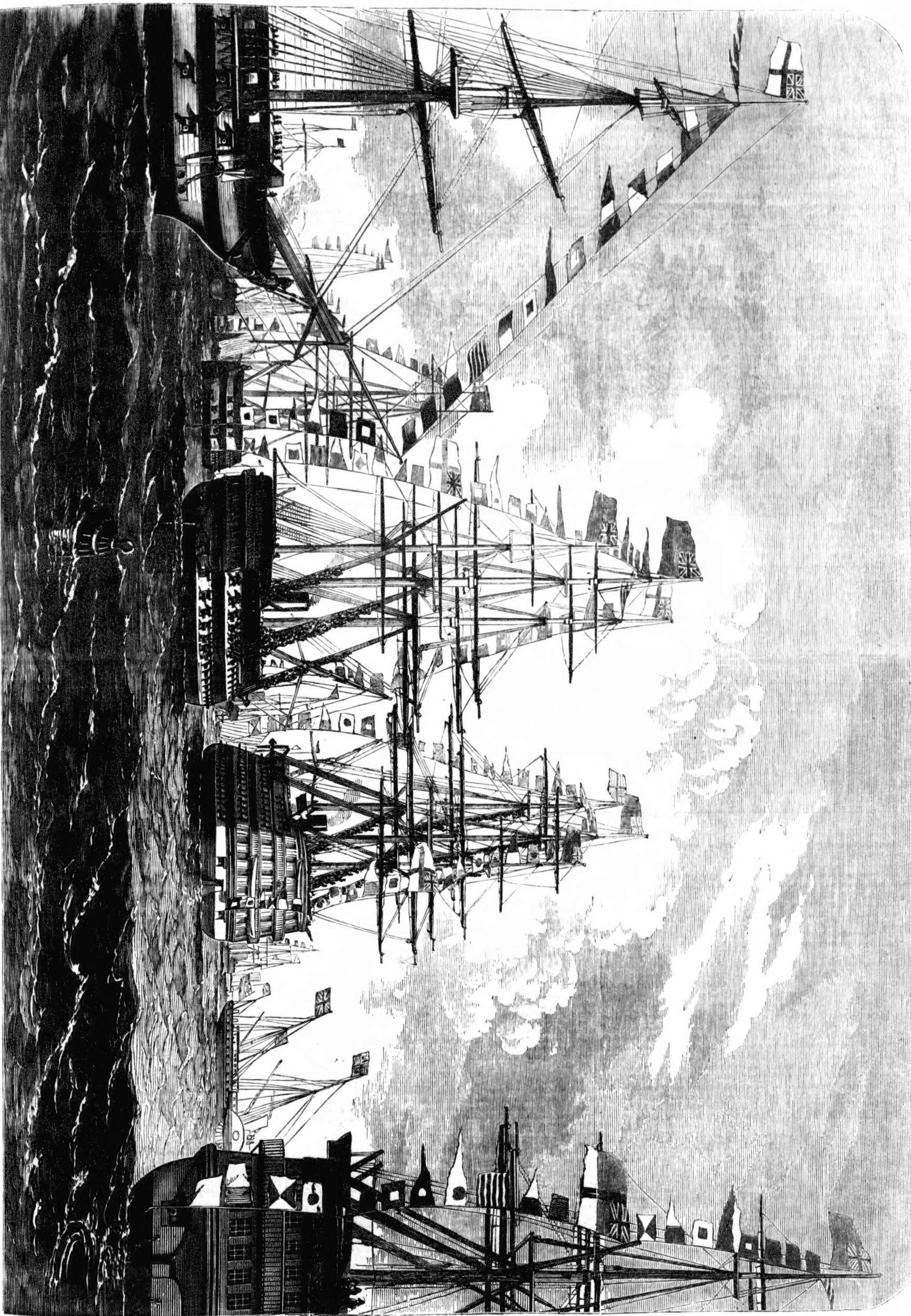
"Of all occupations known to man," says Mr. Squier, in his notes on Central America, "that of the mahogany cutter is perhaps the wildest in its nature, and yet among the most systematic in its arrangements. When the cutter has fixed upon the valley of some river as the field of his operations, he makes a depot for storing provisions, and for securing and embarking the wood. Here, he maintains a little fleet of *pitpans* for carrying supplies and keeping up relations with the 'works' proper, the sites of which are determined chiefly by the abundance of trees, their accessibility, and the means that exist for feeding the cattle which it is necessary to use in 'trucking' the wood. To these points it is often necessary to drive the oxen through thick and untracked forests, and to carry the chains and trucks, by means of small boats, against strong currents, or over shallows and rapids, which are only surmounted with infinite labour.

"Around Belize the mahogany cutters are chiefly negroes, descendants of the slaves who were formerly employed there. But in Honduras they are principally Caribs, who in activity and strength are said to excel the negroes; they are also more intelligent, and require less care and superintendence. Many of them go annually to Belize, and hire themselves for the season, returning to their homes at its close."

In reference to the mahogany trade of Honduras, as, indeed, in respect to every other branch of industry and commerce, we are absolutely without information both as to its amount and value. It may nevertheless be regarded as steadily increasing, and as promising to become every year more important as the supplies of wood from the islands and from the peninsula of Yucatan diminish, and as the demand for it in the markets of the world is augmented. The principal establishments are now on the River Ulua and its branches, and on the Aguan, Black, and Patuea rivers. The other streams have been neglected, in consequence of the difficulty of floating down the wood, as well as of embarking it on an unprotected shore."



MAHOGANY CUTTINGS ON THE RIVER ULUA, HONDURAS.—(FROM A SKETCH BY D. C. HITCHCOCK.)



THE GRAND NAVAL REVIEW—THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON LEADING THE PORT LINE ROUND THE PIVOT SHIP.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. XVII.

THE KARS DESATE.

We have had an old-fashioned party-fight—such an one as the House has not indulged itself with during this session—a crack debate, and more than 500 members in a division. The debate was opened by Mr. White-side, continued through three nights, and ended at half-past twelve on the third, with a division giving 123 majority to her Majesty's Government.

LORD PALMERSTON RESIGNED.

Lord Palmerston has, in fact, stood a fierce siege, like General Williams at Kars; with this difference—General Williams was neglected, failed to get money, provisions, and troops, and was at length obliged to surrender to the enemy. The Premier was not thus deserted, but, on the contrary, by skillful policy, and the energetic zeal of his subalterns, men were brought up from all directions, and he won a splendid but easy victory. Much of this was owing to his own generalship. That meeting of his in his own dining-room was a capital manoeuvre, and it was there that he raised the enthusiasm of his followers, and placed himself at their head. His "whips," too, were also on the alert. Circulars were sent to the four winds of heaven, every man of the party was summoned to his post, and the effect was, that though numbers were scattered in every direction, when the battle came, no fewer than 303 good men and true divided with the Noble Lord, and gave to him a crushing majority.

MR. WHITESIDE.

The Hon. Member who led the attack is an Irish barrister. He was for a short time, in 1852, Irish Solicitor-General when Lord Derby was Premier, and Disraeli Chancellor of the Exchequer, and hopes to be so again, or something higher, in "the good time coming," when his friends shall again return to power. Hence his zeal for Williams, and his country's honour. Mr. Whiteside, in person, is very tall and thin, partly bald-headed, has unusually long arms, rather stooping shoulders, and is, on the whole, a fine-looking man, though somewhat ungainly in his carriage. The Hon. Member is brother to the Rev. Dr. Whiteside, vicar of Scarborough, and the two brothers may often be seen walking together in the lobby, interesting studies, as each is a type of the class to which he belongs. Both are very tall, but the lawyer is pale, thin, and looks overworked, while the person is portly, rubicund—a jolly specimen of a class of men who live well and work little. The Hon. Member is said by his admirers to be a great man, and the speech with which he opened the debate has been declared by no less an authority than Mr. Disraeli, to be equal to anything that was delivered in the eighteenth century, when Burke and Chatham were at the zenith of their fame. But then it must be remembered that Disraeli spoke as a partizan; and, moreover, is strongly suspected sometimes of indulging in what is called *flaming*. That it was an extraordinary speech cannot be questioned—it took four and a half hours to deliver it. It was passionate and fervid, as all Irishman's speeches are, and Mr. Whiteside's especially—sometimes, indeed quite volcanic—and was spoken with a physical energy and extravagance of action that made the hearers fear lest the speaker should break a blood-vessel, or fall down in a fit. But a great speech it was not—except upon the principle that he is a great artist who uses a great brush. Lord Palmerston happily and wittily described it as a speech long to be remembered by all who saw it; and a dry old member who has been in the House for thirty years, in answer to a question whether he did not greatly admire it, said, in his usual quiet way, "It certainly was a remarkable specimen of physical power." Mr. Whiteside always speaks with passion, whether his subject is a vulgar road bill or the impeachment of a minister; and yet, in conversation and private life, the Hon. Member is quiet, amiable, and gentlemanly. Out of the House, he reminds us of a beautiful hill covered over with green-sward, and all the signs of peace; in the House, he is the same hill—but grown volcanic.

THE DEBATE.

With the exception of some four or five speeches, the debate was dull and rapid as spent soda-water. There was a very large number of members "about," but they would not stay in the House. When Mr. Whiteside began, he had an audience of some 300 members; but even his fiery declamation could not keep them together, for in half an hour at least 100 had gone away—some to dine, some to write their letters, and a goodly number to smoke and gossip below. The Hon. Member began at 5:20 and finished at 9:25; and it was amusing to see the surprise and dismay of Hon. Gentlemen when they returned, after three hours or so absence, and found Mr. W. still on his legs. "What, not down yet! why, he will speak for ever." One incident in the speech deserves to be recorded, as it was a cause of no little merriment to those who stopped. About half-past seven, the Hon. Member delivered a very fervid peroration, and as it was confidently expected and hoped that the end was come, the members of the Opposition cheered long and vociferously; but, instead of sitting down, as it was expected he would, the Hon. Member quietly said, "And now to business!" and the House found that all that had gone before was only preliminary; "the business" was yet to come. A shout of laughter broke from the Government side, and, indeed, from all parts of the House, at this "sell." Time will, however, beat even an Irish lawyer at last; and at 9:25 the Hon. Member finished, and the House was all but deserted. And during all that night, and the next, and part of the third, the debate "dragged its slow length along" in the most uninteresting, tiresome, and even painful manner. On the second night, as a division was confidently expected, the House was very full at twelve o'clock. But how the Noble Lord at the head of her Majesty's Government determined to finish the night, divided the House, gained a large majority, and subsequently, in the exuberance of his joy over his victory, graciously gave way, is all too well known to be dwelt upon here. On the third night, the debate was duller than ever. Indeed, in the middle of the evening it really seemed as if the House would "faint away." When Mr. Liddell sat down there were exactly thirty-five Members present; and some minutes elapsed, before any speaker would rise. And when Sir James Graham began, the number had only increased to forty. "Why did not they count out?" Why, because the Government did not wish it, as they were certain of a majority; and the Opposition knew that it was no use to try "a count," for though only thirty-five were in the House, there were within the sound of bell, enough Members to make four or five Houses.

THE HOUSE FILLS.

It was a good piece of diplomacy, after all, of Lord Palmerston to allow the debate to go on to the third night; for during the interval the "whip" was so effectively used, that there were many more Members present on the third than there were on the second night. For on the adjournment division only 416 voted, and the Government majority was but 70; but on the next night, 503 voted on Mr. Seymour's amendment, and on the main question 479, and the majority for Ministers was 127. Take this instance to show the exertions which were made.—An Hon. Member was down at his seat in North Wales. He received the summons at two p.m. on Thursday; he started off immediately, drove seven miles to the rail, arrived at the House at 11.35, and voted for the Government.

DISRAELI.

Mr. Disraeli rose about ten o'clock; there were not more than 250 Members to listen; but when it became known throughout the building that he was up, the House filled rapidly; and long before he closed was crowded with Members. Every part was full. The body of the House, the side-galleries, and the standing room below the bar were all crammed. We have often been asked whether the House will hold all the 654 Members? Well, we should say, from its appearance on Thursday, that it will not. It appeared to us to be then uncomfortably full; and yet there were, at least, 150 Members not there. Five hundred is an unusually large number. There have been 600 present, but that was at a contested election for a Speaker. After Disraeli, came Lord Palmerston.

LORD PALMERSTON HAS THE GOUT.

The indomitable pluck of the Noble Premier was never more shown than on this debate. For a week past he had been racked with the gout, so as to be obliged to clothe one of his feet in a woollen shoe, and hobble up-stairs with a stick; but still his Lordship was at his post, during the whole of the three nights. Other Members, and Cabinet Ministers too, slunk away to eat, and drink, and smoke; but excepting for a few minutes, the Noble Lord, from "dewy eve to early morn," sat

as if fastened to the bench. At 11.30 on Thursday he arose, limped to the table, and, with the weight of his body resting on one limb to save his gouty member, he spoke for an hour as merrily, and with as much freedom, as he ever did in his life. It is true that there was a good deal in the scene to cheer him, and make him for a time "over all the ills of life victorious." For a month or two past his position had been doubtful. In several skirmishes he had been worsted. Divisions and strife had prevailed in his camp. But now his old party had concentrated its forces, closed its ranks, and he knew that the pitched battle he was fighting would be crowned with a decisive triumph. Still it must be acknowledged that he is, for physical power, and animal spirits, a remarkable man. We question whether there is another man in the Queen's dominions, who, at the age of seventy-two, and tormented with the gout, could sit seven hours watching a debate, and then get up and make a lively and forcible speech of an hour's length.

THE DIVISION.

Mr. Whiteside replied, but what he said, or how he said it, we have no knowledge. The House was excessively crowded, the Members impatient; and though they did not attempt to put the Hon. Member down, the buzz of conversation was so great, and the whole scene so distracting, that we could pay no attention to the Learned Orator. And now the time has come. See, the Speaker is up. All oratory is over. He puts the amendment first. Mr. Ker Seymour's amendment: "That the House postpone the consideration of the fall of Kars until after the discussion on the Treaty of Peace." The form in which the amendment was put was this: Mr. Seymour proposed that all the words after "that," in Mr. Whiteside's motion, be left out, and that his (Mr. Seymour's) words be inserted. The Speaker said, "The question which I shall put is—that the words proposed to be left out stand part of the motion. All they that are for it, say 'Ay'; they that are against it, say 'No.'" All, therefore, who did not wish to have the amendment, shouted "Aye," and Mr. Seymour's friends, "No." In this case the "Ayes" preponderated, and the Speaker declared—"The 'Ayes' have it." He then turned to the mover, Mr. Seymour, and said, "Do you divide?" The Hon. Member took off his hat, in token of assent. "Strangers withdraw," cried the Speaker, and the division proceeded. For Seymour there were 52; against him, 451. After the division was announced, the Speaker put the original motion, and another division took place; when there were for Whiteside, 176; against, 303—majority, 127. Loud and long-continued cheers followed; and a stream of crowding, scuffling, pushing, hurrying, scurrying Members poured out of the House, all anxious to get down stairs to secure cabs and get home. The great fight is over, in five minutes the House has no more than thirty or forty Members in it, and the Clerk is reading "the Orders of the Day."

THANKSGIVING DAY.—On Sunday last the churches of the metropolis were filled with those who came to offer up their thanksgivings for the return of peace. The Lord Chancellor, with the officers of the House of Lords and about a dozen Peers, attended Divine Service in Westminster Abbey, where her Majesty and the Court also attended, privately, in the afternoon. The Members of the House of Commons, to the number of 100, assembled at the House at half-past ten o'clock, and attended the Speaker to St. Margaret's Church, Westminster. The Lord Mayor and Corporation went in state to St. Paul's; and throughout the metropolis generally the churches were crowded.

ELECTIONEERING RUMOURS.—Mr. Robert Baynes Armstrong will come forward in the Liberal interest, at Lancaster. Mr. Robert Gladstone of Manchester opposes him. West Kent has been actively canvassed during the past week for Mr. Martin Smith and Sir Walter Riddell. On Monday the committee appointed to try the petition of Mr. Somers against the return of Mr. Wynne, was struck. It consists of Mr. G. M. Butt (chairman), Sir J. Hamner, the Hon. E. Lascelles, the Hon. Robert Clive, the Hon. F. Leveson Gower.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 2.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE TREATY OF PARIS.

The Earl of CLARENDON laid on the table papers completing a series of documents connected with the Treaty of Paris; he also laid on the table correspondence on the questions pending between this country and America.

On the motion of Lord REDFORD, a bill abolishing the exemptions under the Smoke Prevention Act, was read a first time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

TERMS OF THE TREATY OF PEACE.

Lord J. MANNERS inquired whether, under the terms of the treaty of peace, Russia had or had not the right to erect forts on the eastern coast of the Black Sea.

Lord PALMERSTON replied that the treaty applied only to naval arsenals within the waters of the Black Sea; and that the forts on the Circassian coast not coming under that description, nothing in the treaty would prevent the Russian Government from exercising its own discretion in regard to those forts. His Lordship further explained, in reply to Lord W. Graham, that the treaty did not limit or restrain the Russian Government in respect to their naval force in the Baltic, and if they could raise the sunken ships and bring them to the Baltic for the purpose of their forming part of the Baltic fleet, he did not think that this country had any ground to object. A question arose during the negotiations respecting a proposal of the Russian Government to bring away two line-of-battle ships from Nicolaieff to the Baltic, and the British Plenipotentiary said there would be no objection on the part of his Government to the bringing those ships round from the Black Sea to the Baltic.

THE PARK BANDS.

A question put by Lord R. Grosvenor—whether, supposing any members of the bands ordered to play in the parks on Sunday afternoon shall object to do so, they will be released from such duty—gave rise to a lengthy discussion embracing the subject of Sunday amusements in general, and deviated, indeed, into collateral questions. In the course of it,

Sir B. HALL defended himself against a charge made by Mr. Alderley, that he had contravened a recent vote of the House of Commons, and justified the course he had taken.

Mr. WALPOLE objected, in this case, that the civil authorities set those of the army in motion. The Government, he said, should come down to the House and propose this new custom, and not introduce it without its sanction, at the arbitrary will of a Minister of the Crown.

Lord PALMERSTON thought it extremely inexpedient for that House to take upon itself to administer the discipline of the army. He declined to enter into the engagement suggested by Lord R. Grosvenor, and avowed that he shared any responsibility that might attach to Sir B. Hall, who had communicated with him, and had his entire concurrence. He denied that the playing of the bands was a new custom; and, upon the general question, he thought men should be left to act upon their own conscientious feelings. No one was compelled to go to the parks; multitudes did go, so that they did not think it a desecration of the Sabbath.

THE FORTHCOMING FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

In reply to a question from Mr. Glyn, the CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER said he had fixed on Monday, the 19th inst., for making the financial statement.

Mr. J. G. PHILLIMOR gave notice, for an early day after the Whit Sunday recess, of a resolution expressing censure on Lord Stratford de Redcliffe, and conveying the thanks of the House to General Williams and his companions in the defence of Kars.

MONDAY, MAY 5.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE TREATY OF PEACE.

The Earl of ELLENBOROUGH moved a congratulatory address to the Crown on the conclusion of the treaty of peace with Russia. He described the terms of the treaty as satisfactory, and warmly eulogized the services of the Army and Navy, especially dwelling on the services of General Williams.

Lord G. LENOX seconded the motion, arguing that the nation was indebted to the Ministers by whom the treaty had been concluded, Lord Clarendon particularly.

The Earl of MANSFIELD thought the terms of the address exaggerated, and advised an amendment, congratulating her Majesty that the Government had been enabled to establish a peace, "the conditions of which appeared to her Majesty's Government adequately to effect the great objects of the war."

In the course of Lord C. ARDEN'S speech, which followed, he denied that the fall of Kars had a prejudicial effect on the conditions of peace. He also denied the conduct of the Government with regard to Lord Stratford de Redcliffe. It was implied that the Government ought to have recalled Lord Stratford; such a step would have been most imprudent; they should not have saved Kars, and would have lost the services of an experienced man at a most critical period. The Government did all it could; it expressed its disapproval of Lord Stratford's

conduct, insisted that General Williams's demands should be complied with, and obtained that compliance. Lord Clarendon concluded by recapitulating the advantages secured by the treaty, not the least of which was the increased strength the war had given to the French alliance. Throughout the negotiations there had been the fullest confidence between the Governments of England and France.

The Earl of DERBY accepted the treaty of peace, as he believed the country did, without enthusiasm, but without opposition. As to the fall of Kars, he thought the Government was more to blame for the neglect of General Williams than Lord Stratford. He was not satisfied with the new line of frontier, and nothing in the treaty to prevent Sebastopol being rebuilt, nothing to guarantee a real neutralization of the Black Sea. The forts on the coast of Circassia must be restored, and the best barrier against Russia, the independence of the Circassian tribes, had been sacrificed. He condemned severely that part of the treaty which changed the maritime law of the country without any reference to the Legislature.

Earl GRANVILLE replied to the Earl of Derby, and was followed by the Earl of ABERDEEN, who expressed a lukewarm satisfaction with the terms of the treaty. Earl GREY and Lord CAMPBELL both contended that the change in the maritime law would prove beneficial, and that it was quite in accordance with the constitution.

The amendment was then negatived, and the address agreed to without a division.

Lord PANMURE gave notice of a motion for a vote of thanks to the Army and Navy.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE AMERICAN QUESTION.

Replying to Sir E. B. LYTON, Lord PALMERSTON stated that no reply had yet been received from the United States Government respecting the proposal made by the British cabinet, to refer to arbitration the controversy relative to Central America. Pending the arrival of this answer, the Noble Lord submitted that any discussion of so delicate a question would be premature.

Sir E. B. LYTON thereupon consented to postpone the motion upon the subject, of which he had given notice for Friday.

THE TREATY OF PEACE.

Mr. E. DENISON moved an address to the Queen, conveying an expression of gratification on the part of the House at the peace which had just been concluded. The motion was briefly seconded by Mr. H. Herbert.

Lord J. MANNERS, without professing to move any amendment to the address, referred to some particulars in the Treaty of Peace, which he said considerably mitigated the satisfaction he should otherwise have felt at the termination of the war. He contended that no security had been taken against the aggression of Russia upon the Turkish Asiatic provinces, except the pitiful attempt of Lord Clarendon to prevent the re-erection of the Russian forts on the Black Sea. He enlarged upon the importance of those provinces, and upon the injustice and dishonour of abandoning the Circassians and the tribes of the Caucasus.

Mr. M. MILNES expressed himself satisfied as to the sincerity of Russia and considered the terms of peace effectual and honourable.

Mr. LAYARD admitted that more had been accomplished than he had anticipated, both as regarded the security of Turkey against Russian aggression, and to ensure the liberties of the Christian subjects of the Porte.

Lord J. RUSSELL analysed the clauses of the treaty, from the general effect of which he anticipated the most beneficial consequences, in securing the peace, and promoting the prosperity of Europe. Lord John then expatiated largely upon the state of Italy, expressing a strong hope that what had been said by Lord Clarendon at the Conference upon this subject would not be allowed to fall to the ground.

Lord CLAUD HAMILTON moved, as an amendment, a modification in one clause contained in the address, by which, instead of affirming that the treaty had accomplished the great objects for which the war had been undertaken, the House would express their opinion that these objects had been carried out "to a great extent."

Sir C. WOOD, after replying to Lord Claud Hamilton, denied that the Circassians were handed over to Russia; and maintained that the treaty ought to be received with joy and satisfaction.

The debate was adjourned at two o'clock.

TUESDAY, MAY 6.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The County Courts Act Amendment Bill was read a second time, after some discussion, in which the Lord Chancellor, Lord Campbell, Lord Brougham, and Lord St. Leonards took part. The Joint Stock Companies Winding-up Act Amendment Bill was also read a second time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The adjourned debate on the address to the Crown, took priority, on the motion of Lord Palmerston. The discussion was continued by

Mr. W. S. LINDSAY, who not only approved but rejoiced in the peace, congratulating the country especially on the promise of a vast expansion in the commercial intercourse between England and the Danubian provinces.

Dr. R. PHILLIMORE censured the supplementary convention by which the right of search had been surrendered. This step he considered highly questionable, and it should not have been accomplished without the formal assent of the British Legislature. The Hon. and Learned Member placed on the paper an amendment to the motion enunciating this opinion, but declined to challenge a division on the question.

The Marquis of GRANBY, after referring to the objections which from the beginning he had consistently urged against the prosecution of the war, declared himself thoroughly satisfied with the peace by which it had been terminated.

Mr. S. HERBERT examined the political conditions of the problem which presented itself when the negotiations of peace were commenced. These he believed to have been skilfully and honourably adjusted; remarking that the final result had been to exorcise the phantom of Russian predominance, and to break up that alliance between the Northern Powers by which the tranquillity of the Continent was imperilled.

Mr. HENRY DRAUMOND interposed with one of his theological digressions on the papacy and priesthoods in general, all of which, throughout the civilized world, he recommended to be forthwith put down. He was answered by Mr. BOWYER, who vindicated especially the organization of the Roman Catholic church in the States of Italy. Dinting upon the subject of Italy, he complained of the invectives and denunciations of Mr. Layard and Lord J. Russell, which were calculated, in his opinion, to keep up the agitations of the revolutionary party. He considered foreign occupation of that country necessary.

Mr. BENTINCK apprehended that by removing all restrictions upon neutral traffic we had resigned the only effectual means at our disposal of crippling an enemy.

Mr. CARDWELL addressed himself to the questions involved in the right of search, observing that the maintenance of this right had heretofore involved England in constant disputes, and that its abolition was an act at once just and expedient. All other countries had abandoned the privilege, all jurists condemned it—nothing, in fact, had retained it as a practice of maritime warfare except the self-asserted authority of Great Britain.

Mr. M. GINSON cordially approved of the course adopted by the Government in mitigating the severities of maritime war. With the peace itself he also felt gratified, though, as he never sympathized with the objects for which war was said to have been undertaken, he could not proclaim his satisfaction with the mode in which they were carried out. Acknowledging the benefit that might accrue from the recognition of the principle of arbitration in international disputes, the Right Hon. Member proceeded to rebuke the practice of interfering with the domestic abuses of other nations, to which he feared that politicians in England were much too prone.

Mr. WHITESIDE, while consenting to pass the address to the Crown, claimed the right hereafter to discuss various points involved in the treaty, or touched upon in the protocols of the Conference. Among other topics he intimated many preliminary objections to the doctrine of interference with the free press in Belgium laid down by Count Walewski, and, as it appeared, never challenged by the British plenipotentiaries.

Mr. GLADSTONE thought the peace deserved acceptance with joy and thankfulness. He contended that the integrity of Turkey was effectually secured, that no undue interference was established in the internal administration of the Porte while the liberties of its Christian subjects were guaranteed. Mr. Gladstone expressed his pleasure at the adoption of the principle of arbitration, and then remarked upon the question of interference as applied to Greece, Naples, the Roman States, and Belgium. With respect to the latter country, he denounced the attempt made by the representatives of France, Austria, and Prussia, to prepare the way for restricting the liberty of its press; an attempt which might with equal reason be repeated with regard to the press in England itself.

Lord PALMERSTON rejoiced to find that, amidst some diversity of opinion, there was no intention in any quarter to intercept the unanimous adoption of the address. He then noticed the amendment, and analysed the arguments propounded by Lord J. Manners and Lord C. Hamilton, urging counter-arguments to prove that the objections they had raised against the treaty of peace were unsubstantiated or trivial. Regarding the allegation that the Circassians had been betrayed, he remarked that no engagement or even intercourse had been effected between the tribes of the Caucasus and the Allies of Turkey. The treaty, he contended, not only secured better conditions than the Allies had ventured to anticipate, but, supplemented as it was by the triple alliance between England, France, and Austria, placed the integrity of the Turkish dominions, and the security of other European nations against all attempts from Russia, on the safest and most permanent basis which diplomatic arrangements could effect.

The Address was then agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mr. Evelyn DENISON brought up the address to the Crown on the subject of the treaty of peace. It was agreed to, and ordered to be presented by the whole House. Mr. Robert Phillimore's Tithe Commutation Rent Charge Bill was read a second time; and Mr. Dillwyn's Aggravated Assaults Bill was lost on the second reading by 135 to 97.

THURSDAY, MAY 8.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

The House of Lords met for the purpose of presenting the Address to the Queen on the Treaty of Peace. Their Lordships repaired to the Palace, and had an audience of her Majesty. The Earl of ELGIN postponed his motion on the subject of sending troops to Canada until after the Whitsun recess. The Queen's reply to the Address was read, and ordered to be entered on the journals.

GENERAL WILLIAMS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR brought up a message from the Queen recommending the House to concur in a vote granting £1,000 per annum for life to General Williams, and also stating that her Majesty had been pleased to confer on General Williams the dignity of a baronetcy, with the style and title of Sir William Fenwick Williams, of Kars.

THE MURDER OF MISS HINDS.

LORD LINDHURST presented a petition from T. Dunne, convicted of the murder of Miss Hinds, complaining that the Attorney-General for Ireland had refused him for a new trial, and alleging that the sentence is illegal, a juror having been changed without notice given of the right to challenge him.

LORD CAMPBELL, LORD BROUGHAM, the LORD CHANCELLOR, and Lord St. LEONARD's declared that the objection had no validity.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE ARMY AND NAVY.

LORD PARNHAM moved the thanks of the House to the Army, Navy, and Marines, employed in the late war, and also to the embodied Militia. The Earl of DERRY seconded the motion, which was warmly supported by the Duke of Cambridge, Lords Cardigan, Granville, and Grey, and adopted by acclamation.

MARQUIS OF DALHOUSIE'S PENSION.

The Marquis of DALHOUSIE brought the pension to Lord Dalhousie under the notice of the House, but, after some conversation, withdrew his motion.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE ADDRESS TO THE QUEEN.

The House of Commons met at two, and shortly afterwards attended the Queen in state, to present the Address. In the evening sitting, her Majesty's answer to the Address was read.

GENERAL WILLIAMS.

LORD PALMERSTON laid on the table a message from the Crown, asking the Commons to enable her Majesty to confer a signal mark of favour upon General Williams, by conferring upon him a pension of £1,000 per annum for life. Lord Palmerston also mentioned that the Queen intended to confer a baronetcy on General Williams, under the title of Sir William Fenwick Williams of Kars.

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE ARMY AND NAVY.

LORD PALMERSTON then moved the thanks of the House to the Army, Navy, and Marines employed in the operations of the late war, and to the embodied Militia. His Lordship pronounced a warm eulogy upon the martial energies of our troops at the Alma, Balaklava, and Inkermann, and the daring courage they exhibited at the assaults upon the Redan—even, he said, which brought out the sterling qualities of British soldiers. In addition to these, they displayed virtues still more worthy of admiration—the power of stubborn endurance, the silent suffering of privations, which were borne with the same steadiness and resolution as the shock of Inkermann. Nor were courage and endurance the only qualities possessed by our Crimean army; generosity was equally conspicuous; many a soldier who ought to have gone into the hospital refused to quit the field. Although the losses of that gallant army were deeply to be deplored, they were not greater, he observed, than might have been expected. The loss in killed and wounded, from disease, and all other causes, during the whole of the war, did not exceed 22,000 men, of whom a comparatively small number fell in battle. As to the losses of the enemy, he had reason to believe that 90,000 men lay buried in the heights around Sebastopol, and that the total loss approached 500,000 men. His Lordship next claimed for our gallant sailors an equal meed of praise to that accorded to the soldiery, and even passed a compliment to the civil service.

Mr. DISRAELI seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

IRELAND.

PEACE was proclaimed on Saturday at Dublin Castle, at the Mansion House, and in Sackville Square, by Ulster King of Arms, in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant, the Lord Mayor, the Commander of the Forces, several regiments of military and militia, and considerable crowds of spectators; but there was no enthusiasm. On the other hand, however, there were no accidents, and nobody was put to the slightest inconvenience. Much of the state and ceremony observed in London was parodied in Dublin. There was Mr. Thomas Reynolds attired as a field-marshal—coat, hat, feathers, and all—who led the cortege with the keys at his saddle-bow; and calls were threefold, and Athlone Pursuivant commanded silence, when the proclamation was read. The day's proceedings were appropriately closed by a banquet given by the Lord Lieutenant, at the Viceroyal Lodge, to all Crimean officers resident in or near Dublin.

The will of the late Mrs. Kelly was proved on Thursday in the Prerogative Court. The property is sworn under £250,000, but it is supposed to be under £230,000. The instrument, which is of a voluminous nature, and which has evidently been prepared with great care and precision, bears date August, 1854. It expresses in the strongest terms her anxious wish that there may be no litigation with respect to it, as she keenly remembers the suffering and trials to which she says she was subjected in proving the will of her husband. The legacies are numerous, and are nearly all made to relatives, who are principally described as of Broadstairs, Kent.

Orders have been issued for all English militia regiments in Ireland and all Irish regiments in England to return to their respective counties.

The murderers of Miss Hinds will be executed at Cavan, on the 16th.

PROVINCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

BANKING REVELATIONS.—Another banking revelation of a startling kind took place in the Birmingham Bankruptcy Court, last week, at the examination of Mr. Greene, the surviving partner in the Lichfield Bank, which failed at the end of last year. He admitted that the concern had been insolvent for thirty years: Mr. Palmer at his decease, in 1850, owed the bank £245,787, with small assets, while the entire deficiency of the bank was then £69,570; yet Mr. Greene continued the business for five years—as long as he could, in fact—spending £2,650 a year on himself, while the bank was largely insolvent. He said he had tried to reduce his expenditure, but the first steps in retrenchment led to such remarks in the vicinity, that he saw if he pursued that course the bank must stop from want of confidence. Mr. Greene took no money into the bank when he became a partner; and during Mr. Palmer's life he seems to have known nothing about Mr. Palmer's means. The claims on the estate are £188,185; the deficit will be at least £70,000.

CRIME IN YORKSHIRE.—Crime continues to flourish in West Yorkshire, having no police force to keep it in check. Burglars and footpads operate in large gangs, and with great determination and brutality.

DISURBANCES AT OXFORD.—On the evening of Thursday week, the streets of Oxford presented a very riotous appearance, in consequence of the University authorities having determined to prevent too free an indulgence in bonfires, fireworks, and other dangerous demonstrations of satisfaction at the conclusion of peace.

Between eight and nine o'clock a lighted tar barrel was being rolled into High Street, when the University police interposed, and were immediately assaulted by a mob. A conflict arose, in which bones were broken and blood shed, and the police force, about twenty-three in number, finding themselves overpowered, took shelter in the University Police Station. They had no sooner done this, than the mob commenced breaking the windows of the surrounding buildings; the registrar's rooms over the Police Office, and the examination schools adjoining, sustaining considerable damage. The mob next carried off the police watchboxes to Carfax, and burned them. The University and City authorities met on Friday morning, and swore in a large number of the principal inhabitants as special constables. The notice respecting an illumination, which was fixed for the 22nd inst., is withdrawn, and the inhabitants generally are memorialising the University and City authorities to dispense with it altogether, and substitute some other mode of celebrating the peace.

IN THE SARDINIAN CHAMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, on Tuesday, Count Cavour stated that the negotiations now pending, on the subject of the affairs of Italy, imposed upon him a great reserve. The Italian question has been brought before the Congress, and France and England have frankly adopted the views of Piedmont. The Minister also declared that the relations between Sardinia and Austria had not improved.

AN AMERICAN SQUADRON is expected in the Elbe. This important movement is supposed to be connected with the Sound Dues Question.

LORD WODEHOUSE, we have reason to believe, is appointed Minister Plenipotentiary at the Russian Court.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY EXHIBITION.

FIRST NOTICE.

WITHOUT pretending to have mastered the rules by which the collective merits of some fourteen hundred pictures can be measured at a glance, with a certain mysterious standard of excellence known to the curious in Royal Academy criticism, as "the average," we have very little hesitation in asserting that the present year's exhibition is vastly inferior to the last. We suppose (or rather, we will suppose for the sake of illustration) that it is with collected bodies, however slender the thread binding them together, as with individuals. An extraordinary effort is always followed by reaction and lassitude. Last year, the Royal Academy Exhibition put forth unwonted strength. It was a year of new successes. There was Mr. Millais' wonderful "Fire Escape," in which that eccentric young genius threw off the last trammels of pre-Raphaelite affectation, and showed himself apparently equal to the painting of any class of subject whatever. Then, there was Mr. Philip, breaking new ground with his "Spanish Letter-Writer," and that dazzling couple of Andalusian beauties, in the little round frame. Nor must we forget the agreeable surprise of Mr. Hook casting his mediæval, Boccaccio-cum-Spenser slough, and bursting into the sun, a true painter of homely English landscape. We had, moreover, Mr. J. F. Leighton's panoramic plagiarism on Andrea Mantegna, considered by many people a work of rare promise, and which was, at any rate, a conspicuous novelty. Bad as Mr. Egg's "Buckingham" undoubtedly was, it displayed signs of progress and emancipation.

Certainly, the Royal Academy Exhibition over-exerted itself last year, and, as certainly, has not got over the fatigue. The present exhibition may be considered as an *encore* of the last, evoked by popular applause, and executed in a somewhat feeble and out-of-breath manner. There is nothing in it we have not seen before—of course, placing the inevitable amount of rubbish that ought never to have been seen at all, out of the question.

Criticism, under such circumstances, becomes a more than usually delicate task. Having no great or strikingly original works with which to go into raptures, it behoves us to be as tenderly discriminating as possible with regard to the minor excellences. It is much more easy and agreeable to toss up our hats, and say *Io! Evée!* It is very delightful to dance round a bonfire; but when the flame of art languishes, we must fan it carefully, holding our breath at the most critical moments—we must stir up the corners gently—we must apply bits of burning paper gingerly where it looks the blackest—we must do all in our power to keep the sacred fire alight, even at the risk of occasionally losing our patience and soiling our fingers.

Having got safely through a very ticklish bit of figurative writing (the difficulties of which, the reader may be glad to know, will warn us against any similar attempts for the future), we are relieved to find ourselves on the threshold of sober criticism. The absence of any works of exceptional greatness, already indicated, renders deviation from the numerical order of the catalogue unnecessary. We will, accordingly, notice each picture as it presents itself to us, in its proper place.

No. 7, "A Dream of the Future." W. P. Frith, R.A. (the landscape painted by T. Creswick, R.A.) Here is a confession that Mr. Frith cannot paint landscape (without at all proving that Mr. Creswick can—but this by the way). May we be allowed to ask—why? Did Thackeray write in vain when he made Mr. Smee, R.A., (who doubtless employed some other R.A. to paint his backgrounds) sneer at Clive Newcome's productions on the score that he (Smee, R.A.) was not an *animal painter*? If Mr. Frith was capable of conceiving a picture, why could he not paint it himself? Or are we to have figure painters, landscape painters, military painters, marine painters, melon painters, brocade painters, oyster-shell painters, &c., &c., to all eternity? The fact is, Mr. Frith had no picture to paint. But he had a model to paint from, a canvas to paint on, and a banker's account to swell. So he copied his model on to his canvas, of which he left Mr. Creswick to fill up the interstices—to the mutual advantage, no doubt, of their respective banking accounts. The picture means nothing. It is simply a pretty girl, in a country dress (the stage country), with some luggage, resting on a stile, and looking at a distant view of London—dirty and coldly painted by Mr. Creswick. She is not dreaming at all. The spectator may form his own idea of what her "future" may be. Neither Mr. Frith nor Mr. Creswick gives the slightest key to it.

No. 10, "Christmas Day in St. Peter's, at Rome." D. Roberts, R.A. Need we inform the reader what this picture is like? Scarcely, as he must have seen it some two or three hundred times. It is a cathedral interior by Mr. Roberts: further description is unnecessary. As a representation of a curious Catholic pageant, the slovenliness of its detail renders it inferior in value to a wooden cut on a similar subject in any respectable illustrated newspaper. Mr. Roberts appears to have "stencil plates" in his possession for pictures of this description. They are all daubed to one pattern—apparently from three or four scene painters' pipkins of mixed colours, of which pearl gray and salmon-colour are the tints most in favour with the artist.

No. 17, "Love's Labour Lost." F. R. Pickersgill, A.R.A. Mr. Pickersgill repeats himself with the same constancy as Mr. Roberts, and an overwhelming majority of the academicians and associates generally. A very coarse attempt at matter-of-fact illustration of Shakespeare is here utterly marred by the introduction of a still coarser allegory. It may be considered doubtful whether Mr. Pickersgill originally intended this picture as an illustration to Shakespeare at all, as it is merely one of his thousand and one "Decameron's," for which a hundred titles might be found. However, the mediæval ladies and gentlemen in the invariable garden have happened, in this instance, to fall into such positions as allow them to pass muster for Biron, Longville, &c. As Boyet happens to remark, in the scene of the comedy supposed to be illustrated—

"Shot, by Heaven! Proceed, sweet Cupid,"

the artist has thought it an exceedingly graceful thing to introduce a very solid-looking Cupid transfixing a butterfly with an arrow. There are more fat, pinky specimens of the same *genus* swarming about the canvas; not merely indicated as ethereal essences, pervading and influencing the scene (as the sylphs in a picture from the "Rape of the Lock" might be), but painted firmly, as little naked boys, weighing several pounds each, and rolling about the grass. You wonder that the ladies do not smack them, and send them about their business.

No. 35, "Home." J. N. Paton. It is a pleasure to come so early to a really good picture. We praise this the more willingly as we have long borne a grudge against the artist, for a very bad cartoon of the "Meeting of Oberon and Titania," in which, reduced copies of all the plaster images on all the Italian trays of London were assumed to represent the wondrous Midsummer Fairies of Shakespeare. Perhaps the very materialism which prevented Mr. Paton from succeeding in the realms of the supernatural, has enabled him to paint this picture of actual men and women so admirably. The subject embodied is trite enough—just as Life and Death, Love and Sorrow, are trite; being the return home of a disabled soldier from the wars. The man, wayworn and enfeebled, has sunk into a chair before his own fire. His wife has fallen on his bosom; and is resting there, as, you can see, she never hoped to rest again. His mother is leaning with clasped hands over his chair; her face is invisible, but the action of speechless, humble thankfulness is unmistakable. This feeling of "speechlessness" is the great charm of the picture. You know that the group have not yet spoken—that they have remained, and will remain, in the position you see them for some time. Those that have ever suffered deeply, will admit that the sensation of unhelped-for relief is always akin to acute suffering. This subtle truth has been perfectly understood by the artist. The expression of the exhausted soldier's face, is only relieved from vacancy by intense quivering pain; he can see nothing yet; he is not looking at his wife, or at his ruddy baby in the cradle, or at his snug, lovingly preserved home. Tears will come presently, and clear his vision. A blockhead would have painted this man radiant with joy, and cradling his wife with the exuberance of twenty T. P. Cookes! In conclusion for the present (for this is a picture to which we will return with less divided attention), it must be stated that though Mr. Paton has been indebted for the immediate suggestion of his subject to the late war, his work is far above the clap-trap of ordinary *tableaux de circonstance*. If London were to become as Herculaneum, the picture would be as interesting two thousand years hence as now. The workmanship of the whole is conscientious and vigorous, though, in colour, perhaps, a little cold and metallic.

No. 114, "Hide and Seek." T. Webster, R.A. We did not like this picture till we had been thrice round the rooms, giving it a glance each time. Gradually we grew strongly in love with it. It is one of Mr. Webster's reproductions of Wilkie, of course; but it is much better than Wilkie. It is more humorous and less coarse. A lot of Mr. Webster's usual children are playing at hide and seek in Mr. Webster's usual rustic interior. The great fun is in the shallowness of the expedients to which the artless little trots are resorting with the idea of concealment. One has got into the cradle, hiding his head elaborately, but having an immense amount of healthy nether flesh and tumbled petticoat exposed to view. A group a little older than the rest are behind the door, not quite so secure of their position. One astute personage (considering his dimensions) is under a hamper; but there is a very short fat hand (all we see of him; but *ex pede Herculem*), planted in the most confident manner on the floor, but unfortunately sticking out beyond the limits of concealment. The gem of the picture, however, is a little woman who has got under her grandmother's cloak, hanging up by the fire-place, which only conceals her down to the waist. The back is towards you (of course she has turned her face to the wall; could a child hide otherwise?), and the little six inches of frock skirt, with the mottled calves, that have scarcely yet learned to stand upright, surmounted by the gigantic pyramid of gray cloth, present a more exquisite specimen of that rare source of enjoyment—the ludicrous that gives no pain—than we remember seeing for years.

No. 131, "Many Happy Returns of the Day." W. P. Frith, R.A. As a painter for the doll's-house, we are far from being disposed to deny Mr. Frith's merits. Here we have the scene of a little child's birthday, in a highly-genteel family, such a family as will, no doubt, supply a purchaser for the picture. If we saw in it the slightest indication of love and sympathy for children and their sports, such as we have just noticed and honoured in Mr. Webster, we should be the last to speak slightly of this production; but it shows only a love of "gentility," and a subservience to genteel mamma, with an eye, of course, to their influence over chattering papas. It is a very "pretty-behaved" picture. Very little boys and girls are discovered round a dining-table, doing homage, over dessert, to a child of three or four years, surmounted by a garland (and having kept himself unnaturally clean through the ordeal of dinner), with all the propriety of the London Tavern on the occasion of a learned society's dinner. Not one glimpse of the exuberance of childhood—either in its grins or tears—is given us. No word can describe the character of this elaborately-dressed advertisement of fashionable milliners, tailors, and cabinet-makers, so effectually as the classic adjective "snobbish."

No. 147, "Saved." Sir E. Landseer, R.A. Sir Edwin Landseer reminds us of those gastronomical professors who look upon excellent appetite and digestion as a means for winning wagers rather than for the ordinary purposes of nutrition. This picture is strongly suggestive of three pounds of beefsteak and a gallon of ale at a sitting. It is a mere daub, and a daub by a man of great gifts is less tolerable to us than by a man who is capable of nothing else. The latter cannot help himself. If Sir Edwin Landseer's ambition be to prove to the public that his long practice in painting dogs and boys has enabled him to cover several square feet of canvas with a group composed of one each of the *genera* alluded to, by a few dabs of a pound-brush, he has certainly succeeded in the present instance. We will return to this utterly depraved specimen of an able master at a more leisurely opportunity, explaining in detail our conviction of its extreme badness, both intrinsically and in its tendency to influence younger artists.

No. 175, "The Emperor Charles V. at Yuste." A. Elmore, A.R.A. It is always a suspicious sign when a painter has to dive into the obscure nooks and corners of history for subjects. You may generally make sure that he shrinks from the test of comparison between his works and real life. Here is a showy picture, made up of southern skies and antique court splendours. There is little human reality in it. The figure of Charles the Fifth, in the last stage of his hypocondriac illness, is rather powerful. The remaining characters in the group—some ten or a dozen—are Mr. Elmore's usual models and lay figures. Velvet brocades, goblets, oranges, &c., form the chief attractions of the composition, which is very clean, very starchy, and very pretty.

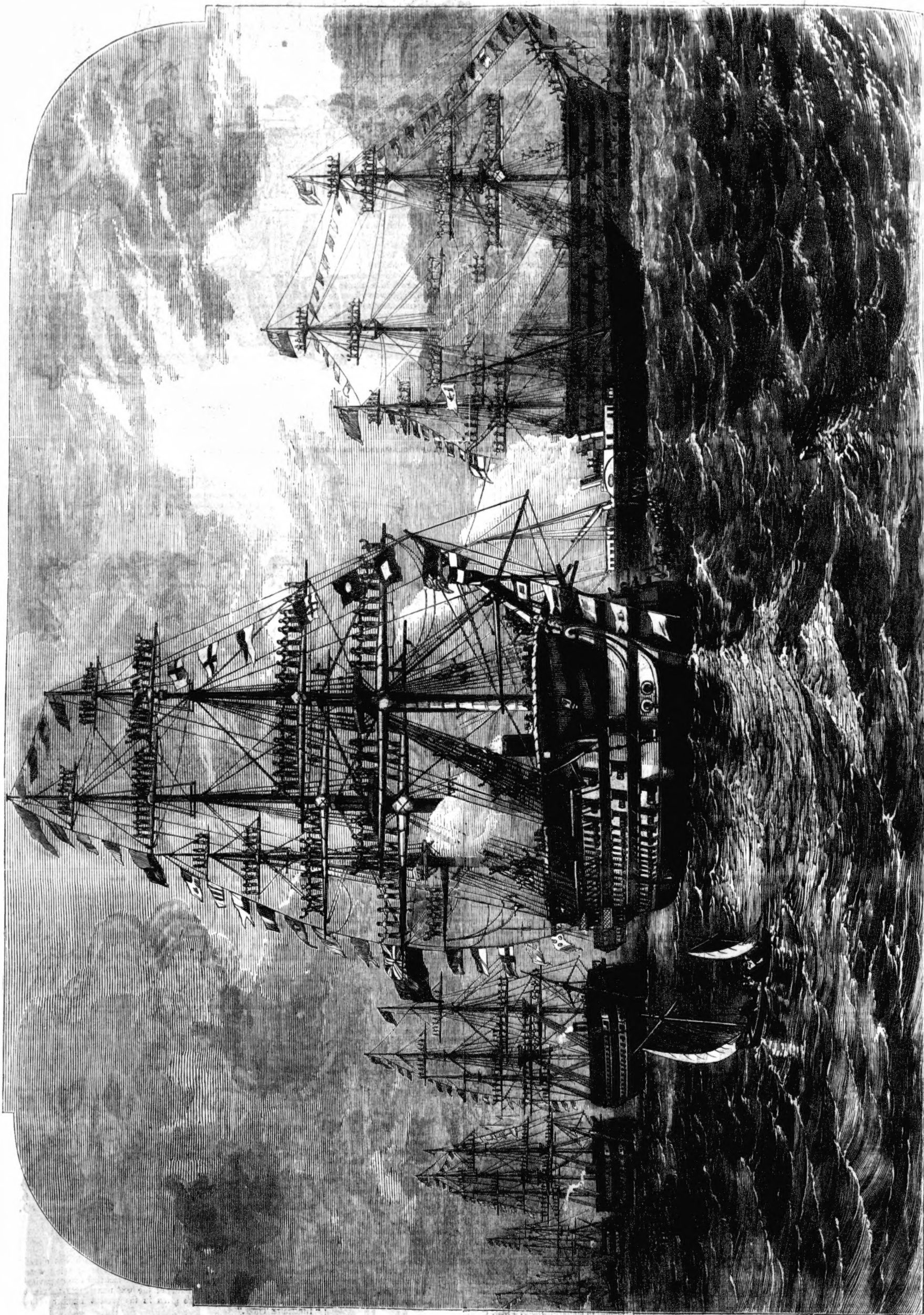
No. 200, "Peace Concluded." J. E. Millais, R.A. This picture has caused us considerable annoyance. It has somewhat shaken our faith in a man we had believed in implicitly—at any time a disagreeable experience. Of course, we do not allude to Mr. Millais's powers of painting flesh, trees, silk, satin, stones, grass, or any material texture whatever—they, of course, are undeniable—we allude to his mind. We had no idea he could have done anything so inexpressibly silly as the present picture. The reader shall judge of the subject. A gentleman, with a moustache, probably a military officer (though it is very kind on our part to assume the fact, the moustache being the only clue to his profession: we wear a moustache ourselves, so do most of the artists, engravers, and printers on our establishment) is lounging on the sofa, with his wife on his lap, and reading the number of the "Times" in which the ratification of peace is made public. Two little girls are playing at their parents' knees; one of them with a Noah's Ark (a very expensive one evidently—some children are fortunate!) The latter has selected from among the toy-animals a bear, a lion, a cock, and a turkey, which she has arranged in amiable juxtaposition on the lap of her father's dressing gown, and is holding up the dove with the olive-branch in its mouth. This subtlety of allegory comes unquestionably within a step of the sublime. Why did not Mr. Millais at once strike for popularity by quoting a verse of "Huzza for the Red, White, and Blue," in the catalogue? As a mere group of family portraits (most probably the secret of its origin), the composition is unworthy of the artist. The painting is (that is, for Millais) slovenly and devoid of brilliancy. It is scarcely necessary to say that it contains some bits of detail that no living artist could equal. But the general effect is dispiriting. It makes us tremble for Millais. We begin to fear lest he should not prove strong enough to bear the weight of success without getting a stoop in the shoulders.

No. 248, "Aqua Fresca, on one of the Bridle Roads of Spain." J. Philip. A decided falling off from the last year's specimens by the same artist, equally in depth, character, and colour. We can thoroughly understand the reason. The "Spanish Letter-Writer" and "El Paseo" were painted when Mr. Philip was either in Spain or newly returned from it, with all its recollections fresh within him. If Mr. Philip's visual memory be defective, he had better confine himself to representing such scenes as come within his daily observation. A picture painted in Spain, or fresh from Spain, is one thing; a *rechauffée* of a half-forgotten Spanish sketch-book, completed in a Newman Street painting-room, is another. It may not be convenient for Mr. Philip to perform the journey to Spain every year; but on the exceptional occasions, suppose he entertains the idea of looking about him a little in England?

No. 260, "A Nereid." W. E. Frost, A.R.A. One of Mr. Frost's usual naked women, in the water. We see no excuse for these things—they tell no story, convey no character, have no excuse of subject whatever to cover the unquestionable indecency which is their only characteristic. As abstract specimens of female loveliness they can certainly not be received. If Mr. Frost were capable of rendering that unapproachable type of purity, the woman who was "naked and not ashamed," he would be achieving a great thing. But his eternal Nymphs, Graces, Nereids, Dianas, and what not, convey but one idea, which is an immodest one—namely, that of a woman who has just undressed herself. There is certainly one ground on which Mr. Frost might (but would hardly care to) shield himself from any charge of impropriety—that is, that his nude figures are not in the least degree like warm human flesh, being merely faithful representations of tinted porcelain.

THE NAVAL REVIEW.

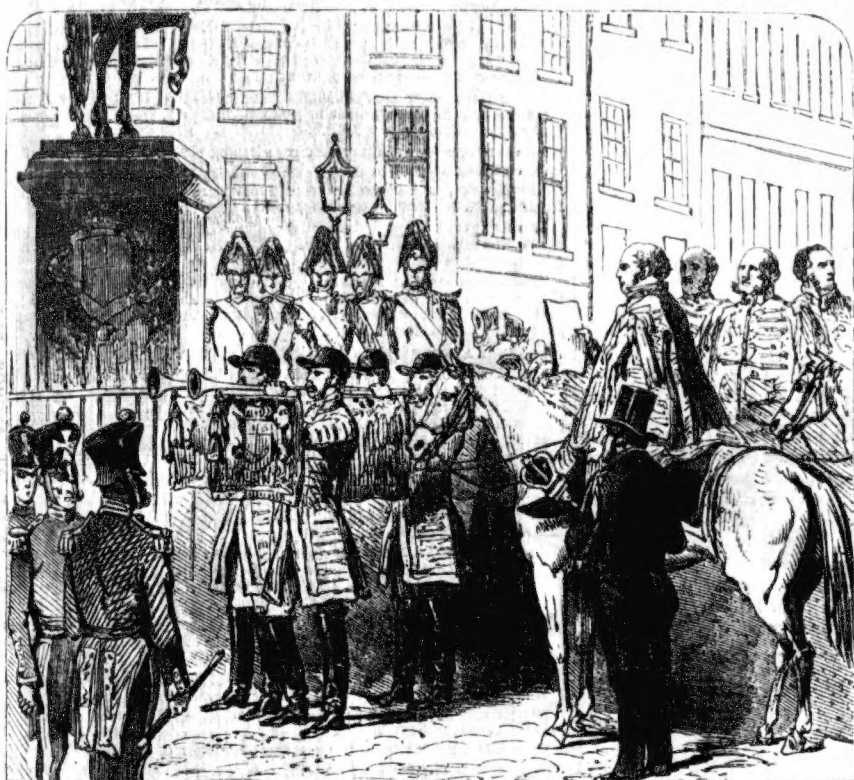
THE very ample account of the Naval Review which has already appeared in this journal, needs no extension. To avoid being weary, therefore, we simply call attention to the fact that two engravings, needed to complete the representation of the most remarkable features of that most remarkable event, are given in the present number of the "Illustrated Times."



THE GRAND NAVAL REVIEW—THE ROYAL YACHT AT ANCHOR BETWEEN THE ROYAL GEORGE AND THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON.



THE PROCLAMATION OF PEACE—GARTER KING-OF-ARMS READING THE PROCLAMATION IN FRONT OF ST. JAMES'S PALACE.



THE PROCLAMATION OF PEACE AT CHARING CROSS.



THE PROCESSION ENTERING THE CITY THROUGH TEMPLE BAR.



THE PROCLAMATION OF PEACE AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE.

PROCLAMATION OF PEACE.

PEACE was last week proclaimed from the west into the east—from St. James's Palace to that Great High Temple of modern Babylon—the Royal Exchange. Last week we gave the news, now we give illustrations—a presentment of the very motley assembly which now goes to make up an official procession—beadles and pursuivants, cuirasses and tabards, the old and the new. From the gates of St. James's, or rather from the gates of St. James's Stable Yard, the procession emerged into the open space in front of the Palace: a flourish of trumpets, a shout from her Majesty's lieges assembled, and the Russian is a friend. Thence to Charing Cross, where the trumpets sound anew—Norroy King-at-Arms looking loyally, and according to custom, toward Whitehall, as he again reads the proclamation: the Strand is pacified. Not so accessible to the olive branch are the citizens of London. Beadles, pursuivants, Rouge Croix, Blue Mantle, Portcullis, and the rest, find Temple Bar deaf to good tidings, and her gates closed. Junior Pursuivant has to announce the business of the procession from the other side of the City before it can possibly be entertained. Temple Bar does nothing out of the good old official course; she brings the messengers of peace to parley; and even then admits the pursuivant alone. But the Lord Mayor can unbend; he is aware how graceful is amenity in potentates; and finding that the proclamation handed to him by the pursuivant contains no matter which can be regarded as treasonable to the City, he orders the gates to be opened to all the Royal train. Enter, the Royal train; and with another flourish of trumpets at the corner of Chancery Lane (possibly in compliment to High Holborn), it goes on under the banners hanging from the outer walls of the Mansion House, to the Great High Temple itself. There another flourish, with shouting of the people, and the mission of Garter, Portcullis, and all is at end—the beadles go home—the tabards are seen no more.

SPLENDID PRESENTATION ENGRAVING TO THE SUBSCRIBERS TO THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES

The PROPRIETORS OF THE ILLUSTRATED TIMES beg to announce to their Subscribers that it is their intention to issue with the number for May 24th, 1856, her Majesty's Birthday, a beautifully engraved

LIFE SIZE

PORTRAIT OF

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

Enclosed in a magnificent Ornamental Border of appropriate design.

This Engraving, which has been several months in preparation, has been executed from a drawing made especially for the purpose, and may claim to rank with the most successful portraits of her Majesty heretofore published.

No expense has been spared to render this work of art worthy of its illustrious subject, and it is believed that in conjunction with the unusual scale on which it has been produced, will fairly entitle it to be considered unique.

The size of the paper on which the engraving will be printed is 25 inches by 33. None but the finest impressions will be permitted to leave the office, and only regular purchasers of the paper will be supplied with them.

The price of the number of the "ILLUSTRATED TIMES," together with this elaborate Engraving, will be Fourpence. The nominal sum charged for the Engraving will be merely the cost of the paper on which it is printed. It will not be compulsory on Purchasers of the newspaper to buy the Engraving, but no copies of the Engraving will be sold distinct from the newspaper upon any consideration whatever.

Specimen impressions are now ready for delivery. Country Agents applying for them, are requested to state how they can be sent.

148, Fleet Street, London.

ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1856.

THE "ENLISTMENT" QUESTION.

LAST week we placed before our readers the "case" of the Government in the matter of Central America. We now take up the "Enlistment" question; and all the more readily, because we were, some time ago, like most people, inclined to attach greater weight to the evidence of men like HERTZ than it really deserves.

The facts of the case require to be recapitulated, for the American question must soon be the great one of the day. Of the Peace, we have heard pretty well all that we want to hear—the country does not love it, and does not refuse it.

When the Russian war broke out, our Government, anxious to get troops from any quarter, at once thought of America. The "neutrality" laws there, by which subjects are forbidden to enlist under foreign powers, are strict. But the population is peculiarly miscellaneous; it is also eminently mobile, adventurous, and warlike. Ministers thought that they might find there many persons of Continental birth, many British subjects, and some American subjects, ready to fight against Russia, and that the case of all would be met if they carried on their enlistment in Canada. Certainly, they issued instructions that the neutrality laws should not be broken. Of this they have evidence; but it is not a fact that is likely to be denied. The sensitiveness of Yankees on such points is proverbial; and Government, without being wise, might, at all events, claim to have common sense. It is not, *primæ facie*, probable, that, with so much tough work on hand, they would voluntarily provoke a row with America. They went to work, at all events—their purpose being to induce loose men, who felt inclined to join them, to proceed to Canada, and achieve it formally. So far, no great harm—no harm whatever—was done. The States justly forbid their own subjects to enlist on their territory: but every free-born American can leave America if he chooses, and when he has left America, of course he is at his own disposal. No nation but the Russians prescribe to their subjects what they shall do when away from home, and when they shall return.

When Government made up its mind to this plan, the American Ministers seem to have advanced no preliminary objection:—

"Those intentions and arrangements," says Lord CLARENDON, 30th April, 1856, "were frankly stated by Mr. CRAMPTON to Mr. MARCY [American Secretary of State], in a conversation on the 22nd March, 1855, and the only observations which Mr. MARCY made in reply were, that the neutrality laws of the United States would be rigidly enforced, but that any number of persons who desired it might leave the United States, and get enlisted in any foreign service."

This was fair enough—sensible and candid. Nor can we understand any free nation's requiring more.

However, Government soon found that the business was not going so hopefully nor so quietly as they expected. The fact is, that at this stage in the affair, a few loose fellows—DALGETTYS, without being gentlemen, in short—began to see that now was the time to make their market. How far they imposed on our Minister and our Consuls is not yet clear—but they *did* impose upon them. The evidence that that notable specimen, HERTZ, gave, now appears to have been false. But we know enough to know that our officials became connected with "a bad lot," who traded, first, on their want

of soldiers, and then (when they found how American opinion was turning) traded on the American excitement against the business. Accordingly, our Government saw their difficulty; and, on the 22nd of June, 1855, sent orders to Canada and Nova Scotia for the enlistment to be discontinued. A fortnight after this came complaints from the Americans, "that the neutrality laws of the United States had in many instances been violated, by persons taking steps, either with or without the approbation of the British Government, for the purpose of engaging or enlisting, within the United States, recruits for the British service." These complaints were made by Mr. BUCHANAN, in a note of July 16th. Admitting that the complaints were reasonable, still, the recruiting, out of which they had arisen, had been stopped a fortnight before, as CLARENDON at once explained.

Here Lord CLARENDON (in the despatch quoted above) makes a significant observation:—

"So strong appears to have been the impression on the mind of Mr. BUCHANAN of the satisfactory nature of this communication [viz., the explanation last-mentioned], that, when afterwards he received a despatch from Mr. MARCY, with renewed instructions to address remonstrances to the British Government on the subject of the recruiting proceedings, he abstained from acting upon those instructions, and withheld Mr. MARCY's despatch containing them from the knowledge of her Majesty's Government, obviously because he perceived, by its date, July 15, that it was written long before the note of the undersigned, of July 16, could have been received by Mr. MARCY, and because he concluded, that, when that note should have been received, the Government of the United States would be satisfied with its contents. For a considerable time this conclusion appeared well founded. On September 5, however, Mr. MARCY addressed a note to Mr. CRAMPTON, not alleging that fresh subjects of complaint had arisen since the receipt in America of the British orders of the 22nd of June, but going back to the same transactions to which Mr. BUCHANAN's note of the 6th of July had adverted, and renewing all his original complaints, as if no notice had been taken of his former representation—as if no regret had been expressed—and as if no measures had been adopted to put an instant stop to the proceedings out of which his complaints had originated."

We fear that Mr. MARCY thought the chance of a bit of anti-British popularity too good to be missed. At this time, the strange Russian sympathies of some American parties were excited; and there was, perhaps, a little jealousy of our Crimean glories, which (in spite of our mismanagement) had kept up our old British fame for pluck and endurance. Lord CLARENDON's reply denied "that any of her Majesty's servants, or any agents duly authorised by them, had disregarded the injunctions to respect and obey the laws of the United States." This was very explicit; and if (as the States Ministers replied) "recruiting" was still going forward, after the order for its discontinuance, Ministers seem to have been helpless bunglers in the matter. How it can have gone on, we do not profess to understand; but our Ministers repudiated it, at all events. They expressed again and again their "regret," too, if they had infringed the laws in the way complained of.

The American demands soon after rose. Up to the 13th of October last, Mr. MARCY had only required that we should "take prompt and effective measures" to stop all recruiting, and to discharge enlisted recruits, but, by a despatch of the 25th December, he wanted "the recall of her Majesty's Minister at Washington, and of her Majesty's Consuls at Philadelphia, New York, and Cincinnati." He had changed his ground. Once, as we have said, he had been content to acquiesce in persons going to Nova Scotia to be enlisted; he now argued that the enlistment, in Nova Scotia, of persons coming thither from the United States, was a violation of its "sovereign rights." To this, the English reply was, that what a nation's laws do not forbid, they tacitly permit; that when the States forbade men to enlist within their territory, they virtually allowed them to enlist without.

Such is the narrative. When the first news of the HERTZ trial reached this country, we were deceived by the plausibility and formality of the affair, and in the "Illustrated Times" of November 3rd last, we expressed ourselves pretty strongly against Government's whole plan of American recruitment. But it is now plain, from statements which we, at least, cannot pretend to doubt, that this HERTZ and the man STROBEL (whose evidence supported him) are unworthy of belief. We do not doubt that our Ministry must somehow have mismanaged matters, by themselves or their subordinates, before such a dispute could have arisen at all. But, *certainly*, the case is not so bad against them as we once thought it.

And now, after all, where is the plausible ground for a war between two nations like England and America, when the whole of the case is detailed? Is there anything here beyond the adjustment of the good sense and the good feeling of the two countries? We unhesitatingly say, there is not. The apologies which Ministers have made America deserves; but she, in her turn, we think, ought to be frankly satisfied with them. We are almost tempted to say, as CICERO said, in speaking of the internal dissensions of Rome, that we prefer "the worst peace to the justest war" with the American people. But there does not seem a reason why, after proper discussion, a perfectly honourable and friendly peace should not be preserved between us.

ARRIVED, A RUSSIAN AMBASSADOR.—Baron Brunow has arrived at the residence of the Russian Embassy, Chesham Place. He brought the formal announcement of the death of the Emperor Nicholas, and the accession of Alexander. Till this formal announcement was made, the Emperor Nicholas was, by a state fiction, regarded as still living. Baron de Brunow had an audience of the Queen on Saturday.

DINNER AT THE ROYAL ACADEMY.—The Royal Academy of Arts gave a sumptuous banquet on Saturday to inaugurate their 88th annual exhibition. The dinner was most brilliantly attended, the guests numbering Ministers of State, dignitaries of the church, the highest occupants of the judicial bench, the chiefs in army and navy, the leading members of both branches of the Legislature, the most eminent representatives of science, literature, and commerce, and celebrated men of every shade of political opinion—all met together on the neutral ground of a love for art. Sir C. Eastlake occupied the chair, and the Premier, the Lord Chancellor, Sir Edmund Lyons, and Viscount Hardinge, were among the after-dinner speakers.

RUSSIA AND OUR NORTH-EASTERN PORTS.—The north-east ports are busy with preparations for a resumed trade with Russia. The Tyne and Continental Steam Navigation Company propose to put the Lord Raglan, new screw steamer, on the Cronstadt station as soon as the navigation is open; and the West Hartlepool Steam Navigation Company proposed running a steamer, with goods and passengers, from that port to Cronstadt, once a fortnight after the 7th inst., during the Baltic season.

THE TRIAL OF PALMER.—At present no alteration has been made in the day appointed for the trial of the prisoner, namely Wednesday, the 14th of May, but it is said that an application will be made to postpone the case to the Monday following, when the whole of the ordinary business will have been disposed of. The prisoner was brought to London on Sunday, and delivered into the custody of the Governor of Newgate. He appears remarkably healthy, and does not seem to have at all suffered either from imprisonment or anxiety.

SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT THE WEST-INDIA DOCK.—On Tuesday, the lock-gates, whilst undergoing repair, burst with violence, the rush of water carrying all before it. The company's diving-bell barge, having two men in charge, was swept into the river, and the two men drowned. The pier-heads were destroyed, and about 200 vessels and steamships thrown on their beam-ends. As far as at present known, £200,000 will not cover the loss.

THE TALBOT DIVORCE CASE.—The hearing of this cause was brought to a conclusion on Tuesday.—Their Lordships took time for the consideration of their judgment.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE ADULTERATION OF FOOD COMMITTEE held its last meeting for the year of evidence on Friday week.

FOR THE FORTHCOMING CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERTS, only such a number of admissions will be issued as can be honoured with proper accommodation. Should this limited number of tickets be sold, the public will not be admitted by payment at the doors.

FRENCH LOYALTY AND ENTHUSIASM need regulation. It is for this purpose, we are told in a placard printed in the second arrondissement of Paris, the collectors will be sent to every house to receive the subscription of 25c. to a testimonial to the Empress and the Imperial Prince.

THE EXPORTS FROM LIVERPOOL, during the past quarter amounted in value to £12,477,214, nearly one-half the value of the total exports of the United Kingdom.

BARRACKS also are "looking-up," seventeen or eighteen have been erected within the last twenty-five years.

IT WAS PROPOSED TO WORK A FLOATING BRIDGE between Ryde and Gosport; but the Admiralty object to the plan of laying down chains across the Solent, and it is now intended to work the bridge by a screw, as a steamer.

M. KOSSUTH has addressed several very sympathising audiences in Scotland lately. The Austrian Concordat is the great subject of his oratory at present.

IT IS PROBABLY THAT THE GOVERNMENT will take stringent measures to put down the "dolly shops" or "leaving shops," which now contribute so much to impoverish poor neighbourhoods.

THE VIENNESE POLICE are in a ferment, from the extraordinary escape of the Count Orsini (a friend of Mazzini's) from the fortress of Mantua.

THREE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED INVALIDS—said to say—are on their passage home from the Crimea.

THE "TIMES" is aroused by the street cries; it can no longer endure the announcement of "water-resses" before daybreak, the melancholy cry of milk-dawn, and the many yells of miscellaneous vendors all day long. It is, perhaps, for a little interference.

THE DUKE OF ARGYLL has been invested with the Order of the Thistle.

SIR BENJAMIN HALL is interfering with the Metropolitan Board of Works. He insinuates that it had better set about the drainage of the Metropolis south of the Thames at once. Of course, the Board will not stand that.

HER MAJESTY will embark from Southampton on Monday week, to lay the foundation stone of the New Military Hospital, about to be erected near the ruins of Netley Abbey.

THE REVIEW which is to take place in Windsor Great Park, on her Majesty's birthday, will be on a grand scale, embracing in addition to the troops at present in London, Hounslow, and Windsor, many regiments now on their way home from the East.

MR. BRIGHT is convalescent, and about to take a tour in Scotland, and afterwards in Switzerland, to establish his health.

ALDERSHOT CAMP has its Theatre, a building of the Noah's Ark style of architecture, where the officers get up amateur performances. More fortunate, however, than their brethren in the Crimea, they enjoy the assistance of lady-professionals for female characters.

THE QUARTERLY RETURN OF MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS for England is generally favourable.

SINCE THE RE-ESTABLISHMENT of commercial relations between Great Britain and Russia, the Electric and International Telegraph Company have received despatches from St. Petersburg, within a second of their leaving that capital, the length of wire being about 1,700 miles.

DURING THE PAST MONTH 13,759 emigrants sailed from Liverpool; being 2,114 less than in the corresponding month last year, and 14,174 less than in the same month of the year 1852.

ON SUNDAY LAST a military band gave its first performance in Regent's Park, to an audience of 10,000 people.

LETTERS TO THE UNITED STATES can now be registered in this country; the fee will be 6d. Letters for Great Britain can also be registered in the States.

IT IS EXPECTED that but small supplies of grain will be obtained by merchants who seek it at Odessa; but in the Sea of Azof it is probable that large quantities can be had.

THOUSANDS OF APPLICATIONS are said to have been made by Russians to the Government for passports to visit foreign countries, especially France; while, on the other hand, numbers of foreigners—merchants, traders, and artisans—are pouring into St. Petersburg.

THERE IS A RUMOUR that her Majesty intends to visit Lisbon in the summer.

THE COURT OF COMMON COUNCIL met on Saturday, and after a discussion, conducted with all that harmony and good taste which characterises the civic councils, it was agreed that a congratulatory address on the peace should be presented to the Queen.

IT IS RUMOURED AT MALTA, with little foundation, we apprehend, that the Anglo-Italian Legion, which was on the point of being disbanded, has accepted a new agreement for service in the East Indies. More particularly, it is said, that they are to occupy the territory of Oude.

M. PONSARD'S LAST COMEDY, "L'Honneur et l'Argent," has produced the author the sum of £4,000!

THE IMPERATRICE STEAM TRANSPORT, having landed 1,134 prisoners of war at the Russian port Libau, returned to Spithead on Friday week, after the shortest voyage ever made to Russia. It occupied only twelve days, out and home, stoppage included.

THE "NATION" reports that Mr. Gavan Duffy is about to be presented with the sum of £10,000, in order to qualify him for admission into the Australian Legislature.

THE GOVERNMENT has announced that the Militia will be disbanded with as little delay as possible, but gradually and with caution.

THE REDUCED ARMY ESTIMATES just issued show that the sum originally required was £34,998,504, but, with the restoration of peace, this has been cut down to £20,747,574, making the important reduction of £14,250,930.

DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 157 vessels were wrecked. In the month of January the number was 265; in February, 174; and in March, 145; making a total in the past four months of 741 vessels.

THE CRIMEAN INQUIRY is still progressing. Lord Cardigan's case is concluded, and Sir R. Airey is now on his defence. Colonel Tulloch, however, is suffering from indisposition, which threatens to delay the proceedings.

AT SOUTHAMPTON, the desirability of laying down a submarine cable between that port and Havre is agitated.

THE BAPTISM OF THE IMPERIAL PRINCE will be attended by a state and magnificence surpassing all that is recorded of the baptism of the King of Rome.

ALTHOUGH we see no mention of the fact in the daily papers, we have heard that the Governorship of Victoria, which lately went begging, has been offered to the Marquis of Chandos, and "not" refused.

ARRANGEMENTS have been made by the Post Office authorities for the establishment of Money-order Offices at Malta and Gibraltar, in connection with this country. It is to be hoped that a similar arrangement will be made with regard to Australia and New Zealand.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has contributed £50 towards the expense of repairing the fine old parish church of Llanbeblig, Carnarvon.

CONSIDERABLE DISAPPOINTMENT is felt in the metropolis, that, notwithstanding all the preparations for celebrating the restoration of peace, no official announcement of a general holiday has appeared.

M. ADOLPHE ADAM, the famous musical composer, died suddenly, at Paris, on Saturday morning.

GERMAN JOURNALS report that a large piece of wood has been discovered at Mayence, by some workmen digging a new cellar in the mansion called "Zu Jungen," the first printing house of Gutenberg. The beam seems to have formed the head of a press, and to contain the socket in which the spindle revolved. The letters J. G. and the date 1491 are cut in one part of it.

A DESPERATE AFFRAY occurred on Saturday evening at Woolwich, resulting in the death of a Militia-man, and serious injuries to two Marines.

A SCIENTIFIC COMMISSION has been appointed by the Russian Minister of Naval Affairs for the purpose of laying down a correct map of the Caspian Sea—which, since the close of the war, and the neutralisation of the Black Sea, has assumed a new importance.

A LETTER from Bucharest says that not content with plundering everybody about them, the Austrian troops have taken to plundering the churches also. No less than forty-five have lately been robbed, including some Protestant chapels.

THERE IS SOME TALK of an intended visit of Queen Victoria to Berlin. It is said, that Prince Frederick William will carry a pressing invitation to her Majesty to be present at the marriage of the Princess Louise with the Prince Regent of Baden in September next.

THE GRAND VIZIER, AALI PACHA, and suite, arrived in London on Tuesday night from Paris.

THE EMPRESS EUGENIE entered on her thirtieth year on Tuesday. It is a curious coincidence that she was born on the anniversary of the death of Napoleon the Great.

TWELVE MEN AND BOYS were severely injured at Woolwich Arsenal, on Tuesday, by the explosion of a rocket.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

the value of your space, and having this week treasured content with my literary and theatrical gossip, I only send you a note of general interest. Goodwill, the well-known scene of the wild Prince and Poins, of the robbery, and the of the "Far Knigh", will henceforth have another to posterity. The property has been purchased by Mr. Kean, and will henceforth form his summer residence.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES, SERIALS, ETC.

Der of "Foster" is the best we have had for many months. It is a "fiction" has been the first in the literary world, and to conceal the powder in the following to much of literary genius; so that it is a pleasure to say that both the casual reader of the circle and the searcher for more solid mental culture, will herein be pleased. The first article in the number, "College Life in Glasgow," is most vivid and life-like, and gives a most striking description of the college and the students. Our luxurious Oxonians and Cantabs have a description of the life of the Glasgow Collegians; of their small means, hard work, and desperate struggles for existence. This paper could not have been written by any one who had not a personal knowledge of his subject; the mental qualities and personal characteristics of all the various Professors are described, and the mode of education minutely gone into. The whole article is written in a spirit of earnestness, and a taking quaintness of style will ensure its appreciation. In the next paper, the writer, of the books recently published by the Hon. Miss Murray, and the politician in America for his text, gives a vast amount of reliable and pleasant information about the United States, Canada, and their religion, hotels, capabilities, domestic resources, &c. The continuation of "Kate Coventry" does not come. Mr. W. M. Melville apparently imagines, that to be natural, it is to be sloppy, and he makes his heroine acquainted with facts and words which we will here be unknown to the majority of English ladies. The present state of society in regard to the various poisonous charges now about to be imputed into, has apparently inspired one of the contributors to "Foster" to read "Der Neue Vitaval," a fine collection of the most interesting criminal trials of all times, in ancient and modern times, and the reader with a taste for this kind of literature will be delighted with the precise recital of the misdeeds of one Bernhard Hartung, a Magdeburg merchant, who met his end and his wife with arsenic. The article on "Old R." is continued, and "Foster" also contains a cutting review of "History of Europe," a page or two on the "Treaty of Peace," and a most eloquent eulogium of John Wilson Croker, for his translation of M. de Montebello.

I wish the Editor of "Blackwood" would persevere in the course he commenced to adopt about two years ago, and infuse a little light literature into what he has now become a byword and a reproach, but I know no better) into each number of "Maga." Everything I found under the portrait of old Buchanan, is well written, and, perhaps excepted, sensible; but there should be a little variety. Yeast capsules, though delightful things in their way, are apt to pall upon the palate. The present number contains an article upon M. de Montebello's "Political Future of England," which is highly complimentary to distinguished Frenchman; a natural history paper on "Fish-ponds and Fishing-boats," the commencement of a new tale called "Metamorphoses," the action of which takes place at the time of the French Revolution; a continuation of the "Scot Abroad," a letter from Tlepolemus to Irenæus on the "Art of Travel," the text-books of which are Mr. Francis Galton's volume of the same title, and Mr. Albert Smith's "Hotel Vauisane," and a semi-satisfied article on "The Peace."

The "Dublin University" opens with a review of the third volume of the "Œuvres de Napoleon III.," which detail events from the commencement of 1815 to 1855, and from which copious extracts are made. The review is written in a fair spirit, and is, happily, void of funkism, the writer pinning his faith in the Imperial endeavours to benefit France and keep peace with the world, and avowing that to this end the Emperor and the Prince will be principal means. "The Fortunes of Glencairn," anonymous, but understood in well-informed circles to be from the pen of Charles Lever, is continued; and a new Irish tale, "The Darragh," is commenced. There is also a smart caustic article, called "Great Wits and Little Stories," (based on the recent memoirs of Sydney Smith, Table Talk of Rogers, and Rakes's Diary) a slashing review of the Baron de Bunsen's "Chroniques de la Guerre d'Orient," a biographical paper on Mrs. Behn, the novelist, and some particularly bad verses by Mr. G. W. Thornbury, one of the most prolific, like warm, country-newspaper-style of versifiers we have.

"Tat" is not so good as usual this month; indeed, with the exception of two pretty sonnets, by W. B. Rands, there is scarcely anything worthy of mention. An article on "Ladies Pets and What They Cost," is foolish in principle and weak in execution; and the "Tangled Talk," usually one of the features of the magazine, is this month scarcely up to the mark.

There is no falling off in the new number of "The Train." Mr. Robert Brough, having got over the preliminary chapters of his novel "Marston Lynch," and interested himself as well as his readers, (a not too easy task for an author, by the way) is writing with great dramatic power and perception. "Mr. Watkins' Apprentice" is concluded this month; Mr. Sala contributes a most powerful article, called "The Paper on the Wall;" there are romantic stories, by Mr. Frank Smedley and Mr. Bridgeman; a further account of John Wilkes, by Edward Draper; some good verse by Lewis Carroll and W. P. Hale, and an essay on "Humburg" by Edmund Yates. The illustrations, by Messrs. McConnell and Bennett, are excellent.

The "Idler," reduced to its old price of sixpence, has changed hands, and with the change has apparently lost much of the smart, fearless writing which marked its first numbers. I miss Mr. Hannay's novel, Mr. Mortimer Collins's poetry, and the caustic remarks on men, manners, and books, which, though always severe and often ill-judged, were clever, trenchant, and telling. I am ill-compensated for these losses by a very feeble paper "About Pear Trees," and by some of the worst scraps of verse it was ever my ill-fortune to read.

This month has given birth to another new magazine, "The London University." It contains one capital paper, a review of Tennyson's "Maud," which discourses cleverly on the poetic faculty of its author, as developed in his other works. The lighter articles are not so good; I should, however, except the translation from Schiller, which is smart and funny.

The sixth number of "Little Dorrit" is, and with deep regret I say it, the weakest that has yet appeared. Mr. Dickens seems to be floundering in his story; the weaknesses of the Father of the Marshalsea are harped upon until they become wearisome; and the strivings after effect—as, for instance, the grotesque conversation of Mrs. Clivary—are palpable and strained. The best bit in the number, the description of the *ballot* behind the scenes, is, I should think, too esoteric to be generally appreciated.

The third part of the "Great World of London" is decidedly the most interesting yet published. In it Mr. Mayhew records the experiences of an entire day spent in visiting Pentonville Prison, and gives a most concise account of all that he heard and witnessed, including, amongst other things, the departure of the convicts for the works at Portsmouth, the process of cleaning the prison, the behaviour of the prisoners in chapel, a description of the refractory wards and the prison punishments, the exercising and health of the prisoners, &c. There is also an account of the history, plan, and discipline of the Female Convict Prison at Brixton, with many diagrams and woodcuts illustrative of the latter press.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A SECOND visit to the Princess's confirms me in the opinion, that while Mr. Kean has produced the most decidedly magnificent spectacle of modern, or perhaps any days, the strict Shakspearian are not unjustified in their complaints at his so-called "desecration" of the author. In all his former revivals, Mr. Kean has held religiously to the text, and has endeavoured to realise the meaning of the poet by presenting us with such

scenes, dresses, &c., as were really the accessories of the play. But in the "Winter's Tale" he has erred, and by his love for the minutiae of costume and decoration, he has been led into a semi-shelving of the characters, or, "authorities" quoted at length, and made so much of in the managerial programme, have had a general ill effect upon what should have been the success of the piece. Mr. George Godwin, and the other gentlemen who have no theatrical experience, and the result of their rehearsal is imparted a certain stiffness and formality to the performance in *anti-theatricality* (if I may coin a word), which must be imputed to a manager of Mr. Kean's standing and perception. In the case of Mrs. Kean, who throughout was most graceful and womanly, the acting cannot be highly commended; Mr. Kean, as Leontes, has a heavy, uphill part, against the dreariness of which he struggles manfully, but which affords him no scope for the display of that forcible and rugged feeling in rendering which he is most impressive. Mr. Harley played Autolycus fairly; if he had not played Mr. Harley at the same time, and restrained his chin, shoulders, and elbows, he would have been better; and Miss Leclercq looked very pretty, and was very badly dressed, as I said.

The new Amateur Pantomime, founded on the story of "William Tell," will be performed on the second of June, at the Lyceum, on which occasion, it is believed, her Majesty will be present.

"Still Waters Run Deep," the best modern comedy for many years, is about to be shelved at the Olympic. *Apologies*, I send you a letter from my old correspondent "Trois Etoiles," whose sensible remarks are well worthy of publication.

Saturday, May 3rd, 1856.

DEAR MR. LOUNGER.—I paid a visit a night or two ago to the Olympic, for the double purpose of seeing "Still Waters Run Deep," and studying Robson's eyes; their wonderful power and varied play having apparently escaped the notice of Mr. Sala, in his capital paper on Robson in "The Train." Indeed, Robson and Ronconi, who resemble one another in many particulars, are in nothing more alike than in the possession of pale, small, washed-out looking eyes (somewhat like those of the puff-blower humanised), that light up now with a strange, wild, wicked leer, then die down into a most ludicrous insipidity, and then in an instant blaze out into an expression of concentrated revenge and evil, such as no dark eye, be it blue, brown, or hazel, can ever emit.

But before "my" lovely eyes beheld that filthy old ballad-woman in the burlesque, they saw in a drawing-room of Mr. Midway's house that very same stunted shawl upon the table, that carpenter's wife's shawl, which, some months ago, lent a greasy grace to Mistress Oakley's elegant apartment. While I was remarking this and the like ghastliness in the house of a man who is supposed to have a few thousands to invest in "Glasgow," the Princess's audience was yawning inwardly over the enormous glitter of the "Winter's Tale," and fancying that the manager was doing honour to Shakspeare by adorning his stage with a waste; and they, on their parts, admiring poetry by staring at millinery; and I could not help wishing that Mr. Kean and Mr. Wigan could each lay his hands on the words of their wise countryman—"These things are but toys; but yet it is better they should be graced with elegance than daubed with cost."—The first gentleman in strengthening his company; the second, by attending not merely to his own dress, which is always true to the part, but to the dress of the chairs and tables by which he is surrounded.

Will you desire your musical critic to present my compliments to Mr. Gye, and tell him that the central gash of the Lyceum is a horrible nuisance to the amphitheatre and gallery; and, further, that if he wishes to bring out a sure and in the way of comic opera, he will get Mr. Costa to write musical recitative for Mozart's "Serafino," which, with Fornes, Mario or Gardoni, Bosio, and Marat, would fill his house—as it has "not" been filled this season, except on "Norma" nights.—I am, dear Sir, yours obediently,

TROIS ETOILES.

OPERA, CONCERTS, AND NEW MUSIC.

GRISI, of course, made her first appearance for the season in "Norma." In spite of the fictitious triumph of Jenny Lind, and the genuine one of Cruvelli, in the character, it remains peculiarly Grisi's own. And she is so conscious of this, that after making her first appearance of all as the Druidical priestess, she also made her last appearance, and "positively her last appearance," in that part. It is the part in which she has twice returned to the stage "for a limited number of nights" (which have, of course, been limited by the duration of the season); and it is the part in which we hope she will continue to take farewell, make fresh *débuts*, and represent the character upon those pretexts, or with or without any other pretext, so long as she does represent it, and sing the music. We had not the disadvantage of hearing Grisi when she was eighteen (for if we had been old enough to go, or be taken, to the opera then, we should perhaps have been too old to enjoy it now—like those middle-aged critics who cannot appreciate Verdi); but we have been in the habit of hearing her for the last two "lustres" (if, with our very slight reverence for classical music, we may be permitted so classical an expression), and it appears to us that during that period she has scarcely fallen off at all; certainly not, as regards the richness of her voice, and the skill of her execution; but still more certainly not, as regards the "majesty" of her figure. Owing to this latter disadvantage, although she may still be as unrivalled as ever in "Semiramide," probably neither Beaumarchais nor Rossini would care to acknowledge her as the Rosina of the "Barber of Seville."

At all events, her Norma is as good as we ever remember it to have been, which almost amounts to saying that it is better than it ever was before, for if it were only equal now to what it was ten years since, it would probably appear to us to be inferior, on the principle, that it is impossible to prolong a pleasure without at the same time increasing its intensity. The "Times" critic, who is always worth listening to, if only from his peculiarity of understanding his subject, speaks with rapture of the scene in which the Druidical priestess ("Druidical priestess" is the only genuine periphrasis for Norma) incites the tribe "to laughter." The Druid must have been of a naturally gay disposition, who could have been incited to laughter by Norma's call to arms the night on which we assisted at the ceremony. Perhaps, however, "laughter" was only a misprint for "slaughter."

Mr. Lumley commences his season on Saturday (to-night). Every one in London knows that Albani is to appear in the "Cenerentola," and every one also knows that she will be received with an enthusiasm to which her past performances entitle her, and which she will justify by that of to-night, and we hope of many more nights. The public will be delighted to welcome Madame Albani, even after—especially after, we may say—her five years' infidelity to the city in which she achieved her first Cis-Alpine success. Last week, in speaking of Mr. Lumley's *ballot*, we omitted to mention the "Corsaire," which is to be produced with Mademoiselle Rozati in the principal character. This *ballot*, which has lately been a great Parisian success, is said to have been suggested by the Empress Eugénie, who was also said to have suggested the Universal Exhibition of Fine Arts, and several other things which were suggested by other persons. The Empress Eugénie is very pretty, but a lady may have fair hair, and a sympathetic expression in the eyes, and still be a plagiarist. At all events, a *ballot* called the "Corsaire" (the *libretto* by St. George, the *mise en scène* by Albert, and the music by Boesha), was produced at Drury Lane during Mr. Bunn's management, and whether this be or be not the *ballot* lately played at the Académie Royale, the idea is not so much her own as other things of which she may justly claim the parentage—such as the hair-appearing to the throne, for instance.

The first meeting of the Orchestral Union took place on Saturday, at the Hanover Square Rooms—Mr. Alfred Mellon in the conductor's chair. The programme contained a selection from the works of Beethoven, Mozart, and Sterndale Bennett; nor was Rossini excluded (for Madame Gasser sang the principal air from the "Barber of Seville"); while, at the end, a place was found for the conductor's overture to "Héloïse." Cultivators of the evident in matters of sarcasm have been calling attention to the fact, that Mr. Alfred Mellon, as director of the Orchestral Union, announces it to have been founded, in order to ensure the most perfect execution of the works of the "great masters," and that, at the first concert, we find an overture by Mr. Alfred Mellon set down in the programme. Accordingly, "Is Alfred Mellon a great master?" has become one of the grand questions of the day. In the absence of any precise definition of the phrase, "great master," we must content ourselves with replying, that he is, at all events, an excellent musician and an admirable conductor; that "Héloïse" is a very clever overture; and that almost any conductor but Mr. Alfred Mellon, after the success he

has had with his hand and with the public, would have favoured us with more than one of his compositions, which would have been thrust into the places of honour, instead of giving us a solitary one at the end of the concert. The programmes at these concerts have the advantage of being not only very good, but also very short. The majority of the public are only capable of receiving the highest kind of music when administered in very moderate doses. Instead of producing reverie, while requiring no exercise, or scarcely any, of the intellect, the music of the solemn composers, who rejoice in the title of "great masters," demands sustained attention, and appeals, almost in a direct manner, to the intellect. Hence the admiration which pure musicians entertain for it, and hence our frequent objection to it. In return for the attention demanded, "classical music" sometimes gives nothing but intellectual satisfaction, in which case its effect upon intellects which have not been trained in a musical direction must be one strongly resembling wearisomeness. We are glad to find that Mr. Alfred Mellon tempers the Beethoven to the weary amateur.

When we say that the "general public" cannot listen with satisfaction to three or four symphonies in succession, we are saying nothing against the dignity of music, but are only stating a fact, as if we were to say that that well-known character in literary journals, the "general reader," cannot digest more than a very few hundred lines of "Paradise Lost" at a time, although he might devour a three volume novel at one sitting. At the Philharmonic, they relieve Beethoven and Mozart with Graun, who has lately been raised from the dead, and who has haunted the subscribers ever since his revival. Mr. Mellon must never fall into such a fatal error as that.

The Crystal Palace concerts are announced to commence this week. Accordingly we shall notice them in our next.

We have not space for noticing much new music this week. "Little Dorrit," by J. Cudfield, is a lament, the music of which is somewhat analogous to the words of the Catnachian ballads. "Angels' Footsteps" is a beautiful, and will doubtless be a popular song; to the words, which are by Longfellow, has been "wedded" a beautiful melody by Weber. Longfellow's portrait on the wrapper is said to be very like Tennyson, although many persons detect in it a considerable resemblance to Browning.

THE CEREMONIALS OBSERVED ON THE DECLARATION OF WAR AND OF PEACE.

IN glancing back at the history of this country, we find the occasions which have called forth a general expression of joy and thankfulness amongst all classes of the people, to have been very few indeed. Perhaps the most notable instance was when the news arrived of the destruction of the formidable Spanish armada. Then, however, the nation was roused by the sense of the imminent danger to which it was exposed, and both Queen and subjects were ready to array themselves against the invaders. We have no daily broadcast to refer to for particulars of the rejoicings which took place on that occasion; but the chronicles of the time show that the good news was hailed in a manner which we can scarcely judge of by the state of public feeling in connection with the present peace. Whatever may have been the failings of "good Queen Bess," she undoubtedly stood bravely forward in times of danger; and merry was the ringing of the bells, loud the roaring of the "chambers" at the Tower, great the display of tapestry and rich hangings on the outside of the houses, and hearty the cheering which greeted the Queen during her triumphant visit to the citizens of London.

The entry of Charles II. into London, after the civil war, gave rise to another genuine outbreak of English feeling, but one which, so far as the object of it was concerned, did not prove to have been deserved. Since that time, we have had various rejoicings on the termination of wars in which this country has been concerned, and to the treaties arising from which England has been an important contracting party.

In 1697 (Friday, Sept. 20), a general peace was signed at Ryswick. On this occasion, a day of general thanksgiving and rejoicing was appointed, and in addition to the feasting, roasting of oxen, illuminations, &c., "a royal firework," on a large scale, was ordered, as we find in the accounts of the time, by the Earl of Romney, Master-General of his Majesty's Ordnance, designed by Sir Martin Beckman, the King's Chief Engineer, and by him performed in St. James's Square, before his Majesty on 2nd of December, 1697.

The peace of Utrecht (following the war of the Spanish succession) was signed on Monday, March 13th, 1713; and on the 7th of July, brilliant displays of fireworks were made on the Thames and in other parts of London. On this occasion both Houses of Parliament went in procession to St. Paul's Cathedral. In the Strand, the trustees of the various charity schools erected a raised platform 620 feet long, for the accommodation of 4,000 charity children, boys and girls. A large and carefully executed engraving enables us to form a good idea of this interesting scene, and to note the great change which has taken place in the aspect of the Strand since the above date. But few of the original houses can now be recognised; and even those are so much changed that it is not easy to know them by comparison with the print. England was next a party to the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, on Tuesday, April 30th, 1748; a general peace was signed at Paris, on Thursday, Feb. 10th, 1763; American peace, at Paris, Saturday, Nov. 30th, 1782; another, at Paris (France and Spain), Monday, Jan. 20th, 1783; that of Holland, Tuesday, Sept. 2nd, in the same year; the Peace of Amiens, Saturday, March 27th, 1802; that of Ghent (American), Saturday, Dec. 24th, 1814; and the general peace at Paris, Monday, May 30th, 1814, which was celebrated in London on the 1st of August, of the same year.

At the time of the breaking out of the present war, forty years of continued peace had removed the "circumstances" attending these solemn occasions from the memory of the great majority of the people. The tradition of the old observances used on these occasions had not, however, passed away, and as soon as a war with Russia was certain, large numbers of persons assembled in front of the Mansion House and the Royal Exchange for the greater part of two or three days, in expectation of the reading of the Queen's proclamation of war in the stately manner formerly observed. From a remote period the proclamation of both war and peace was made in the most public manner—not only in the metropolis, but also in all the chief towns in the kingdom; and the custom was useful, inasmuch as it enabled the great masses of the people to express an opinion on the various wars, and the manner of their conclusion. On the declaration of the present war, the people of London were prevented from giving an opinion in the usual way; for on the arrival of her Majesty's proclamation, one or two of the underlings of the Corporation, without any ceremony, walked over to the steps of the Royal Exchange and proceeded to read the important document.

In the belief that a few particulars of the mode in which it has been customary to publish both the proclamations of war and peace would be interesting to our readers, we have looked up from the works of some of the London historians the following scraps of information. Not to go too far back, let us begin with the year 1749, when, on the 2nd of February, the Heralds-at-Arms, accompanied by the second troop of Horse Guards, attended by the Knight-Marshal's men, Sergeant Trumpeter, High Bailiff of Westminster, and other proper officers, met at St. James's Gate, where his Majesty, lying at the window of the apartment over the gate first sheathed the sword, the proclamation of peace was read, with the beat of kettle-drums and sound of trumpets. From St. James's, the cavalcade proceeded to Charing Cross, where peace was proclaimed a second time—from thence they made their way to Temple Bar, where the officers of Westminster retired, and within the gate the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Recorder, and Sheriffs, performed the usual ceremony. At their entrance into the City, the proclamation was made a third time at Chancery Lane, a fourth time at the end of Wood Street, Cheapside, and the last time at the Royal Exchange. This appears to have been the precedent relied on at the performance of the ceremony last week.

In 1793, the English Government felt itself called upon to commence a war with Spain: this was declared on the 22nd of October in the above year, after the following fashion:—

The officers of arms, with the sergeants-at-arms and trumpeters, mounted their horses in the Stable Yard, St. James's, and proceeding

thence to the Palace Gate, Garter Principal King of Arms read his Majesty's declaration of war, and Norroy King of Arms proclaimed it aloud, which being done, a procession was made to Charing Cross in the following manner:—

Horse Guards to clear the way.
Beadles of Westminster, bare-headed with staves, two and two.
Constables of Westminster in like manner.

High Constable of Westminster with his staff.

The Officers of the High Bailiff of Westminster with white wands.
Clerk to the High Bailiff, High Bailiff with Deputy-steward, &c.
Knight Marshal's men.

Drums, Trumpets, Pursuivants Blue-mantle, Rouge Dragon, Portcullis.
Richmond Herald. Windsor Herald.
York Herald between two Sergeants-at-Arms.

Somerset Herald ditto.
Garter King of Arms ditto.
And the procession was closed by a troop of Horse Guards.

At Charing Cross the declaration was read by Norroy King of Arms, and proclaimed aloud by Somerset Herald. They then proceeded to Temple Bar, when the officers of the city of Westminster retired, and within the gate the Lord Mayor, aldermen, deputy-recorder, and sheriffs, in scarlet, attended, and Blue-mantle Pursuivant having presented to his Lordship the Earl Marshal's warrant, the city procession followed the troops. At the end of Chancery Lane, Somerset Herald read the declaration, and York Herald proclaimed it aloud. It was also read at the end of Wood Street,



QUEEN ELIZABETH ON HER WAY TO THE CITY, TO RETURN THANKS FOR THE VICTORY OVER THE SPANISH ARMADA.
(FROM A PRINT IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.)

Cheapside, and at the Royal Exchange, amid joyful acclamations.

It appears that formerly the cessation of arms and the treaty of peace were severally proclaimed. On the 1st of December 1762, after the capture of Havana, the cessation of arms was proclaimed as usual, and on the 22nd of May the definite treaty was also proclaimed.

It is not necessary to mention numerous occasions on which proclamations were made in a similar manner, up to the time of the Peace of 1814, when it appears that although the papers were signed on the 30th of May, the peace was not formally proclaimed until the 20th of June; and on the 1st of August the occasion was further celebrated by great rejoicings in Hyde Park, &c. On the day of the proclamation—viz., the 30th of May—the streets were crowded at a very early hour, and the houses in the line of procession were thronged with spectators. The heralds and the different officers assembled at St. James's about eleven o'clock, but were detained until four by the absence of the military who were to have accompanied them, they being engaged at the review in Hyde Park. The military at length arrived at St. James's, and the procession proceeded to the Palace gate, when the proclamation was read by the senior officer of arms. It was also read at the various points in the line to the Royal Exchange, according to strict precedent, accompanied by the usual flourish of trumpets.



THE TWO HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT ON THEIR WAY TO ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, TO RETURN THANKS FOR THE PEACE OF UTRECHT, JULY 7, 1713.—(FROM A PRINT OF THE TIME, IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.)



PEACE PROCLAIMED AT THE ROYAL EXCHANGE, IN 1748.—(FROM A PRINT OF THE PERIOD, IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.)

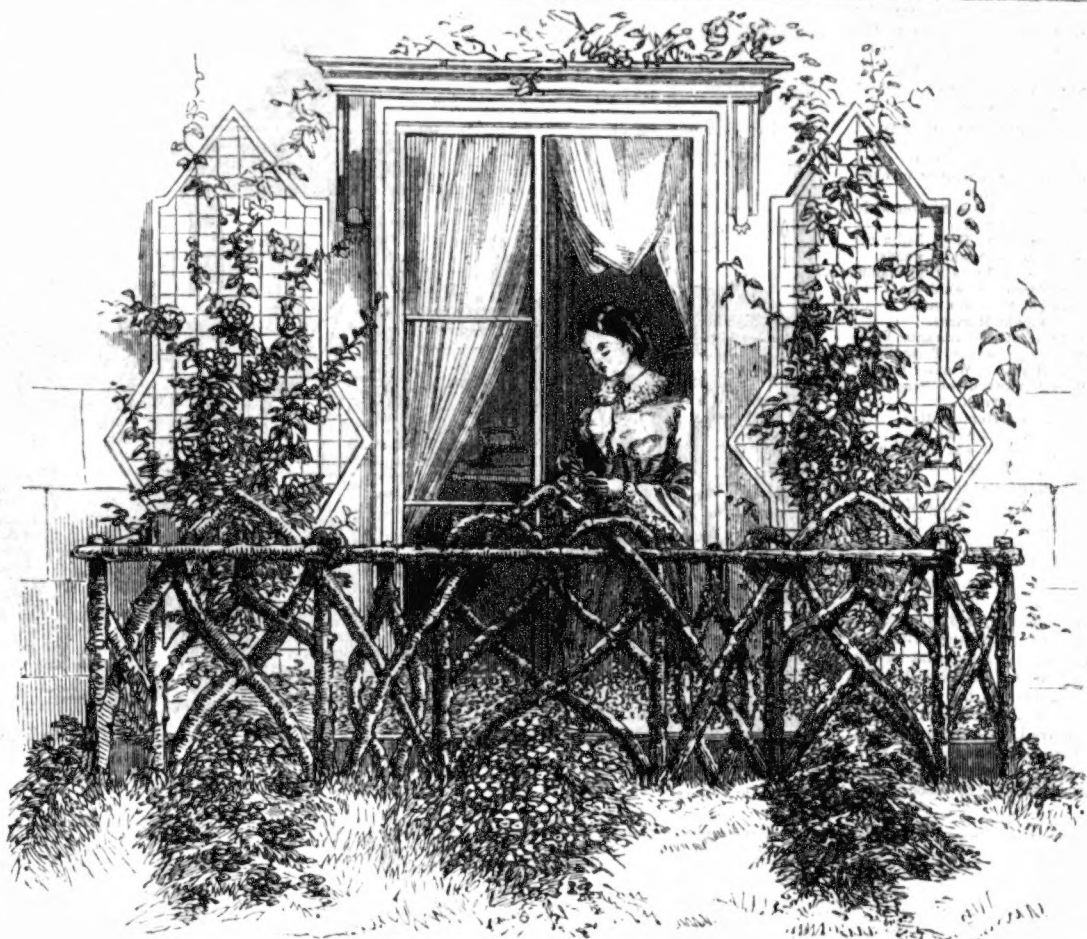
WINDOW GARDENING, AND THE CULTIVATION OF PLANTS IN ROOMS.—NO. 9.

We have received a letter from a correspondent, informing us that several of our suggestions, especially those illustrated in the external view of a balcony, given in No. 48, would have been carried into immediate effect but for the "expense," which he appears to think would be very considerable, especially that connected with wire trellis on each side of the window. In order to remove the impression that any considerable expense would be required, we shall give a somewhat detailed account of the manner in which we have ourselves just constructed two ornamental frames of similar trellis at the cost of a very few shillings, with the addition of an improved rustic balcony.

The strips forming the external frame to which the wire trellis is attached, were sawn from a half-inch deal plank; and being planed at the edges, and roughly half-morticed at the joints, were nailed together, and strengthened by two cross ties inserted at the back at proper distances, and then fixed with screws. A few feet of iron wire-netting (such as can be procured at the manufactory, corner of Judd Street, New Road, at 6d. per square yard) were then strained neatly over the frame, and fixed with small tacks. The frame and trellis being complete, the whole was painted of the required colour and fixed in its position, each frame having cost little more than two shillings; and a similar one might be constructed by a jobbing carpenter for a trifle more, provided he is furnished with the proper materials.

Having shown how inexpensively some very pretty effects of trellis-work may be produced, we may proceed to describe in what manner our equally inexpensive rustic balcony was constructed. The window opened towards a lawn, but being raised some eighteen or twenty inches from the ground, it was not used as an entrance to the flower-garden, which is seen from it, at some little distance. Instead of making a couple of steps down to the garden, it occurred to us to have a little home flower-garden still nearer the house—that is, nearer to our favourite room; and with this view we determined to construct a kind of balcony, which should contain a miniature flower-garden, fenced in with picturesque rustic balustrade work. We commenced operations in the following manner:—Having obtained about a hundred of bricks, we raised a kind of single brick wall (without mortar) against the portion of the building to which the balcony was to be attached, up to the level of the sill of the window. At each end of the required space we carried out short lateral walls of the same nature to the distance of four feet, and then joined them in front by a longitudinal layer of bricks, of the same height, similar to the one against the wall of the house, the last-named layer or wall being adopted in order to prevent the wall of the house from becoming injured either by damp or any other cause. An oblong square pit, four feet by eight, and about eighteen inches deep, was thus formed, which we proceeded to strengthen outside by a sloping embankment of stiff earth, which was, when complete, covered with turf. The interior of the pit was then filled with dry rubbish till within four inches of the top, and then made level with the brickwork by a superstratum of nice gravel, first levelled with the rake, and then patted firmly down with the flat side of the spade, taking care that the general surface formed an inclined plane, sloping from the window towards the garden, just as balcony slabs are always placed by builders, an arrangement by means of which the rain may run off immediately, either from a stone slab or a surface of smooth gravel. The surface thus obtained required to be watered several times with a watering-can, with a very fine rose, in order that the gravel might not be washed out of place, for which reason also very little water had to be used at a time, till the surface became quite hard and settled.

The main difficulty in the construction of our rustic balcony is now over-



WINDOW GARDENING—DESIGN FOR A RUSTIC BALCONY.

come, and it only remains to fence it with the improvised balustrade of branch-work. For this purpose, will be required two bundles of stakes, the one of at least two inches in diameter, and the other somewhat more slender. The strong stakes, with the bark on, are to be driven into the embankment close to the bricks, till their tops remain at the requisite height above the level of the balcony; these will form the uprights, as shown in the design, to which the more ornamental portion of the work is affixed.

The whole of the front piece may then be framed together of the thinner stakes, hollows being cut in each stake where the design requires them to cross each other, in order that the work may adhere more compactly. It will be found more convenient to nail the parts together at these crossings; and when the whole front is well knit together, it must be tied against the already fixed uprights, and the places carefully marked where it will require to be attached to them; the places so marked must then be hollowed out, so as to enable the ornamental work to lie neatly and compactly against its supports, to which the best way of fastening it, without shaking the work, is by means of sharp screws, of sufficient length to take a good hold.

Any little cracks or chippings, where the removal of the bark causes an unpleasant effect, should be touched with a little paint of a dark-brown colour, which will effectually conceal such imperfections, and the work is complete. Such imperfections, however, ought not to exist if the work be done by a jobbing carpenter; but we are supposing that the structure has occupied the leisure hours of the amateur—in which case, a few slips of the kind will not only be excusable, but almost unavoidable, especially in a first effort. The partial training of a few climbing plants over the work will, however, very soon, at this season, conceal any little trifling inaccuracy in the workmanship.

It only remains now to line the rustic balcony with long mignonette boxes, or any other receptacles for plants, of whatever form the taste of the arranger may suggest.

These receptacles may be sown with a mixture of mignonette and Virginia stock—which last will be very soon in flower—and at distances, to train to the rustic-work, sweet-peas should be placed; taking care, however, to leave space for a few fuchsias, scarlet geraniums, and other plants of that class, which may now be placed out with safety in such a situation, especially if the aspect be south or south-westerly. And there is one leading feature in the distribution of the plants which we have left to the last, as being all important to the favourite effect which we had in view. It will be seen that in the design, three arch-like openings are left in the lower portion of the rustic work. These openings have been contrived in order that they might form rustic portals; from which a little cascade of floral beauty and luxuriance should, as it were, flow down the turf embankment. This effect is to be produced by three fine plants of verbenas, planted within the balcony and trained outwards: the centre one being white, of a strong, free-flowering kind, and the two others of the best and most vivid scarlet kinds. The effect thus produced will amply repay the trouble of its preparation, as we have already witnessed in a previous season.

In our present arrangement, the trellises against the wall are to be covered with the fast-growing double pink convolvulus; a hardy and vigorous plant, which will soon run over the whole of the trellis, and cover itself with a profusion of large rose-like blossoms. We have sometimes placed along with each group of castilleja, a single plant of the common wild convolvulus of the hedges, the great white bindweed, which being a nearly related plant of very similar growth, harmonises well with it; and the delicately white blossoms mingling with the pink form a pleasing and sparkling contrast.

FASHIONS FOR MAY.

THE silk dresses of the newest style prepared for the present season excel in beauty of colour and richness of texture any that have hitherto appeared. Those suited for evening or full-dress dinner costume, are remarkably rich and elegant. From an extensive assortment, we select for description a few of those most distinguished for novelty. A greatly admired dress is of moire of a pale amber hue. It has three flounces, each edged with a broad white stripe or band, figured with a light pattern in black. Another dress is glacé, the ground pink, and figured with black stripes. This dress has four flounces, flowered with pink and black. A dress of light green silk has flounces figured with an exquisite design of sea-weed on a white ground. But the dress which for splendour and novelty surpasses all the rest in this assortment, is composed of rich gros des Indes. It is manufactured in all colours, but those most effective are peach-blossom, sky-blue, and maize. This dress has three flounces edged with a broad band or stripe of white therry velvet, on which stand out in bold relief bouquets of flowers in every variety of colour.

The most fashionable mantelets are very highly ornamented with a profusion of fringe or lace, intermingled with ruffles of quilted ribbon, rows of chenille, jet trimming, &c. Those of black silk are most generally adopted in ordinary walking dress; and mantelets of coloured silk, especially those of light and showy hues, are reserved for occasions demanding a somewhat recherché style of costume. One of a very fanciful description may be noticed here. It is of black velvet, and its form resembles that of the small scarf mantelet, so fashionable last season. It is ornamented with exquisite embroidery in coloured silk. On the back is a Bird of Paradise, with outspread wings and tail, and surrounded by intertwining sprays of flowers. Those flowers which exhibit the most tasteful combination of colours pass over the shoulders, and descend down each front of the man-



FASHIONS FOR MAY.

telet. The whole is finished by a superb fall of Chantilly lace, more than a quarter of a yard in depth. A beautiful mantelet, contained in an assortment just received from Paris, is composed of white silk, embroidered with bouquets of violets in natural colours. The mantelet is edged with three frills of silk, cut out in large scallops, in each of which there is a bouquet of violets. The frills are edged with fringe, in shades of violet colour and lilac.

Bonnets of fancy crinoline, or of crinoline and straw combined, are likely to be much worn during the Spring. When fancifully trimmed with ribbon and flowers, they are very light and pretty. For a superior style of out-door costume, a bonnet of crinoline or of tulle, either white or of some light hue, is very elegant. There is no material change in the form of bonnets; they still continue to be worn exceedingly small. The *bavette* of crinoline at the back is made very deep, and is set on in large plaits.

Young Lady's Dress.—The material is drab-colour silk, striped with white and black. The skirt is without trimming, and the corsage is high, pointed in front of the waist, and without a basque. Over the corsage are *bretelles* or braces of black velvet. Full under-sleeves of white muslin. Collar of Valenciennes lace, fastened by a brooch of oxidised silver. Yellow kid gloves. Boots of black cashmere.

Robe of White and Blue Chequered Silk. with six flounces cut out in scallops. The basque and the sleeves are trimmed with narrow frills cut out in the same manner. Bonnet of French chip, edged with white blonde, and trimmed both on the outside and inside of the brim with bouquets of white narcissus. Collar and under sleeves of worked muslin. Straw colour kid gloves. Boots of gray cashmere.

For more detailed information respecting the fashions of the month, we may refer our readers to the new number of "Le Follet."

Literature.

Memoirs, Journal, and Correspondence of Thomas Moore. Edited by Lord JOHN RUSSELL. Vols. VII. and VIII. London: Longmans.

WHEN the bright, gay, and fascinating "poet of the Irish people" was consigned to his last resting-place, in the green churchyard at Bonham, it appeared that his pecuniary affairs were hardly in a condition so satisfactory as could have been wished. That such should have been the case, could, of course, be a matter of no surprise to those who were aware of the losses he had sustained and the reverses he had experienced. He left, however, his letters and diary, containing doubtless many facts and incidents of high interest, but also notices of occurrences so trivial and ordinary in character, that it is impossible, even at this late time of day, and after all that has been said, to refrain from expressing our regret that some pains had not been taken to make a judicious selection. Lord John Russell, it seems, took a different view of the matter. As one of the most intimate and constant of Moore's aristocratic friends, as well as literary executor, he resolved upon giving almost all the "raw material" left by the departed bard; and the result is that the reading public, instead of one volume of classical biography, have no fewer than eight, made up of anecdotes in many cases so utterly silly, that we can imagine their publication making him who chronicled them blush in his grave. Of these volumes, the last two are now before us.

Lord John, in the very brief postscript, thus indicates clearly enough the cause and the consequence of his undertaking to appear as editor of the work:—

"The literary works of which Mr. Moore was the author had yielded him considerable sums for copyright—not less, in the whole, he says, in the fifth volume of his *Diary*, than £30,000. But these sums had all been exhausted by his yearly outgoings. He had a pension from the Crown of £800 a year, but this pension ceased with his death. As a provision for his widow, he left only his *Diary* and *Letters*, commending them to my care. I applied immediately to Mr. Longman, his publisher, who informed me that he was prepared to give £3,000 for the copyright. I found that for this sum Mrs. Moore could secure an annuity for the remainder of her life not less than the income upon which she and her husband had lived frugally and quietly for the last years of his life; I therefore undertook the task, reserving to myself the power of expunging any passages I might think calculated to wound individuals, or offend the public taste."

Without aspiring to exercise anything which, without mockery, can be called biographic functions, the noble editor of Moore's papers has made the poet so tell his story, that readers of the earlier volumes have been enabled to form, for themselves, some sort of idea how this modern Anacreon made his transit, with a celerity all but unprecedented, from humble parlours and revolutionary gatherings in the Irish capital, to the saloons of patricians and the banquets of princes; how, for a while, he left aristocratic circles to undertake official duties at Bermuda, and was, after returning home, involved in serious difficulties by the individual whom he had left as his deputy; how he met Jeffrey for mortal combat at Chalk Farm, and formed with him a lasting friendship; how he was introduced to Byron by something resembling a challenge, and afterwards became the noble and long-descended bard's associate and biographer; how he visited Scott at Abbotsford, and was conducted by the mighty Border Minstrel to the "Rhymer's glen," and other spots renowned in history and tradition; how he composed the rich, brilliant, and gorgeous Oriental romance of "Lalla Rookh" amid frost and snow; and how he gave to the world those "Irish Melodies," which are recognised as the happiest emanations of his gay and fanciful Muse. "While poetry has charms for mankind," writes Lord John, admiringly, "the melodies of Moore will survive."

At the date when the seventh volume of the *Memoirs* opens—the year 1833—Moore has reached the age of fifty-five; and is residing at Sloperston Cottage, near Devizes. But rustic retirement seems so little to his taste, that he is continually finding some excuse for running up to town, getting among those aristocratic friends whom he loved so well, and manifesting his deference for them after a fashion undeniably the reverse of dignified. Moore never seems to have discovered that many of those fine lords and ladies were at the best mere mock-patricians. Their having grand houses, and being invested with the gewgaws of rank, were sufficient for him; and while perusing his journals, we doubt whether any feudal minstrel ever believed more fondly and thoroughly in the blood of a Neville or a Percy, a Dunbar, Douglas, Guzman, or Montmorency, than Moore did in the nobility of such people as "The Hollands" and their friends—for whose diversion he exercised his wit, and at whose bidding he sang his songs. His thoughts, in fact, seem to have been occupied with trifles about dukes and marchionesses. We find him worrying himself because he could not accept an invitation to meet the Duke of Norfolk at dinner, and congratulate him on his "ribbon"; expressing keen satisfaction on hearing that Lord John Russell had spoken of him with admiration, and gratified beyond measure because when "the Lansdownes"—as he is so fond of calling them—were going on a trip to Brussels and Paris, "Lady L., before she went, called and left for Bessy a beautiful tuber rose." It appears, however, that his aristocratic acquaintances never left anything substantial; that they were not, after all, the sort of friends from whom the struggling poet could, in cases of emergency, have accepted pecuniary assistance without feelings of humiliation.

Talking of a dinner at Holland House, and the conversation turning upon Rogers, Moore writes:—

"I mentioned the readiness with which he once advanced £400 to Campbell, to enable him to purchase a share in 'The Metropolitan'; which circumstance Campbell himself told me, and which I believe I have mentioned in this *Journal*. Campbell found afterwards that the speculation would not be to his advantage, and returned the money. I then adverted to my own experience of R.'s kindness in this way, saying (what is the simple fact) that he is the only man to whom, when in want of money, I could bring myself to apply for assistance; that I have so applied, and of course not in vain. When I began saying that he was the only man to whom I could, &c., Lady Holland said, 'Yes, you little proud thing, every one knows that!'"

Far from taking offence at being so spoken to by "my lady," he seems rather to relish it; and in another place he relates, with pride, first, that a Royal duke was in the habit of calling him "Tommy"; and, then, that a noble lord quizzed him about his diminutive size.

"Dined at Lansdowne House: a grand dinner to the Duke of Sussex, and a very splendid thing it was in every respect. Company, besides the Duke of Sussex and Lady Cecilia, the Duke and Duchess of Cleveland, Duke and Duchess of Somerset, Lord and Lady Minto, Lord and Lady Breadalbane, Lord Camperdown, Lord John Russell, and plain Mister Moore. Set next Lord John. The Duke of Sussex, on coming in, exclaimed, as usual, 'Ah, Tommy!' and called me to

account for not having been to see him, but I told him I had. In the course of dinner, taking wine with different people, and lumping three or four together at a time, in order to diffuse the compliment, he cried out, on proposing wine to some at our part of the table, 'Lord Minto, Lord John, and, last not least, Tommy!' On which Lord John said gravely, in an under-voice, 'Last and least; thus putting in his claim, as I told him, for the small modicum of superiority he has over me in that respect; whereas he gave one of his very agreeable and playful laughs.'"

After this kind of treatment, we heartily sympathise in the pleasure with which Moore records having heard that one great and good man regarded him with the respect due to his genius and his fame.

"Was delighted to learn from Macrone that Laidlaw said he never saw Scott so pleased or happy with any visitor as he was during the few days I passed at Abbotsford, nor ever knew him to work so little as he did during that time. 'There was no one else in the house,' said Laidlaw, according to Macrone's report; 'he had Moore all to himself, and seemed to enjoy it thoroughly.' This (which I am willing to believe true, as it tallies, indeed, very much with what I myself observed at the time), gave me, of course, great pleasure to hear."

Moore was about this time occupied with writing his "History of Ireland," and describes how disagreeable was his position, with the pressure of this work on one side, and the claims of society on the other. It was Lansdowne House and Bowdler against Paternoster Row—"the Lansdownes" against the Longmans; the former, of course, having the best of the tussle, as is pretty plainly proved by the following passage:—

"10th. Asked to Bowdler to-day to meet Lord Ebrington at dinner, but found on arriving that he was still detained in Devonshire. No one besides themselves, except Guthrie. Day very agreeable; slept there."

"11th. The Longmans beginning to be alarmed at the state of my progress in the printing, and though working from morning to night, and despatching my corrections far more rapidly than I ought, am beginning myself also to be apprehensive that it will be impossible for me to be ready in time. Wrote to ask them whether, by any good chance, there was not some other 'monthly gentleman' they could put in my place; but they answered, 'No; that Dr. Lardner, who was now in Paris, had depended upon my being ready; that my book had been very extensively advertised, and they had no other to substitute instead of it.' Nothing left for me, therefore, but to run up to town, and see what I could do by working on the spot. Very worrying all this, and for the first time in my literary life made me feel a thorough lack. As I wrote to Rogers, some time since, 'Had I anticipated this sort of thing, I would have seen Dionysius the tyrant with his dead namesake before I would have tied myself to such a task.'"

An interview on this subject was held by the poet with Mr. Lardner and the Longmans, "in the little back parlour," and the matter was discussed with becoming seriousness.

"At last, after much deliberation and suggestion, it came out that what I had proposed from the country—namely, that they should put some other 'monthly gentleman' in my place—was, after all, practicable, and would be adopted. They had, it appeared, a volume of the 'Germanic Empire' in reviewers, and, to my great joy, now agreed to produce it instead of mine. The only thing at all to be blamed in them was, that they did not do this from the first; but Longman, it appeared, had been particularly anxious to have my volume out. Felt myself comparatively now a free man (though aware that it would still require my utmost exertions to be ready even for the first of April), and towards five o'clock, called out for a walk towards the West End."

"I had begged of the Lansdownes (who came up to town the day after I left them) not to mention my being in London to any one, as I meant to remain buried in the Row till my task was finished. One of the first persons I now met at Brooks's was Lord Lansdowne, who burst out into exclamations on seeing me, 'What, you! the recluse of the Row, that wasn't to be seen or heard of; that gave me such injunctions of secrecy, &c. &c.'"

Moore's sun set in gloom; and the years which closed his chequered career were clouded, not only with pecuniary embarrassments, but with such dismal events as the death of his two sons, which left him in the melancholy position of surviving his five children.

"The death of his only remaining child, and his last and most beloved sister," writes Lord John Russell, "deeply affected the health, crushed the spirits, and impaired the mind of Moore. An illness of an alarming nature shook his frame, and for a long time made him incapable of any exertion. When he recovered, he was a different man. His memory was perpetually at fault, and nothing seemed to rest upon his mind. He made engagements to dinners and parties, but usually forgot half of them. When he did appear, his gay flow of spirits, happy application of humorous stories, and constant and congenial ease, were all wanting. The brilliant hues of his varied conversation had faded, and the strong powers of his intellect had manifestly sunk. There was something peculiarly sad in the change. It is not unusual to observe the faculties grow weaker with age; and in the retirement of a man's own home, there may be 'no unpleasant melancholy' in the task of watching such a decline. But when in the midst of the gay and the convivial the wit appeared without his gaiety, and the guest without his conviviality—when the fine fancy appeared not so much sobered as saddened, it was a cheerless sight."

We are glad (and we are sure our readers will be equally so) to learn that Moore's last days—those days when, at Sloperston, he was awaiting the approach of the great destroyer till the 26th of February, 1852—were calm and peaceful.

"His last days were peaceful and happy; his domestic sorrows, his literary triumphs, seem to have faded away alike into a calm repose. He retained to his last moments a pious submission to God, and a grateful sense of the kindness of her whose tender office it was to watch over his decline."

We have certainly no wish to depreciate Moore's genius; and as for his fame, we only wish that it had been exposed to less rude shocks. He was not, we admit, so great as some of his contemporaries—not, of course, so great as Scott or Byron; but he had a distinction denied to them, that of being, like Burns, the bard of a nation.

Fletcher of Saltoun gave an opinion to the effect that it was a matter of no great consequence who made the laws for a country, so long as one had the making of its songs; and such was Moore's privilege in regard to that "Emerald Isle" of which he was so distinguished a native. But when we turn from Moore the Irish poet, to Moore the mock plebeian, among mock patricians, his career, as depicted in the pages before us, assumes a most melancholy aspect. For this part of the business, Lord John Russell is principally responsible. Never assuredly, was such an utter want of discretion displayed. Moore himself, by-the-by, was somewhat guilty in this respect, when he aspired to be the biographer of Sheridan; it was, as we read, the fashion of the day to say, that he had murdered the witty orator, whose skillfully-prepared and dexterously-delivered jokes had so often made the walls of St. Stephen's shake with laughter. "No," exclaimed George IV., on hearing of this grave charge; "but he has undoubtedly attempted his life!" Lord Brougham, if we remember aright, remarks, that the frankness with which Moore gave the secret note-book of the famous wit to the world, must almost have made their author shake in his tomb. So far as that matter goes, we certainly are of opinion that Richard Brinsley may, from this date, rest in peace. Lord John Russell has avenged him, and no mistake.

POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

MR. COMMISSIONER EVANS'S GODSON.—John Ballard Lloyd, who was charged at Guildhall, in December last, with throwing oranges at Commissioner Evans in the Court of Bankruptcy, was again placed at the bar upon the charge of sending a threatening letter to the Commissioner. The letter began by setting forth the distressed condition of the prisoner's family. "Our destitution," it went on, "is so intense, and the agony of my mind is so great, that madness must ensue, and then I may commit some rash act towards you, myself, or society, which I am quite incapable of while reason holds her sway; therefore, for your own safety, have me again locked up. If you do not attend to this, sir, you cannot desire another public harrowing scene in your court, neither do I, but await my arrest as a mercy and a kindness.—I remain, sir, your obedient and unhappy godson.—J. B. LLOYD."

A copy of this letter was found on the prisoner when apprehended. Before the Court, however, he declared that he would rather sacrifice his own life than injure the old gentleman (Commissioner Evans) on the bench; but in the bitter struggle of witnessing a young wife and four helpless children starving around him, what could he do?

Sir H. Muggelidge could not admit this as a justification for the outrage the prisoner had committed, and required him to find two sureties of £100 each, to keep the peace for twelve months. The prisoner declared himself perfectly unable to procure such heavy bail, and was accordingly removed in custody.

AN ACTOR IN DANGER.—Harriett Graham was charged at Marlborough Street on Saturday with attempting to shoot her husband, John Munroe Graham, an actor at the Princess's Theatre. It appeared that the prisoner had been married to Mr. Graham for twelve years, but was now separated from him. On the previous night, she met him coming out of the Princess's Theatre, and presented the pistol at him. There was evidence to prove that the pistol was loaded, and that the lock clicked, but it did not go off.

The prisoner, who said she only intended to frighten her husband, was committed for trial.

THE LORD COLVILLE.—George Colville Colville, who first figured before the public as a claimant to the title and property of Lord Colville, and afterwards in connection with railway and other speculations, was charged a Londoner on Saturday, with deserting his wife and four children.

The relieving officer said that Colville was offered employment in the street, but refused it. He was then employed in the office, but this he soon tired of, and from the 17th of April had left his family chargeable to the parish. The defendant, who certainly appeared in great distress, denied having deserted his family, as his wife knew where he was.—Mr. Elliott committed the prisoner to the House of Correction for twenty-one days.

WIFE STABBING.—Instances of wife-beating, and occasionally of wife-stabbing, continue to add a shocking interest to the newspapers. On Monday, Dennis Cavanagh was charged, at the Thames Police Court, with a murderous assault upon his wife. Catherine Turner, their daughter, was called in evidence, and stated that her mother paid her a visit on Saturday night, and her father came to the door and endeavoured to force his way in. Finding this difficult, he then opened the window, but witness did not see anything done, for she was at the front door at the time. When she saw her mother, she was dreadfully cut, but witness did not know how it was done. Admonished by the magistrate not to conceal what she knew of the fact, the witness still persisted that, on going back from the door into the room, she found her mother wounded and the window open, but saw and knew no more. By the evidence of the police constable, it appeared that the prisoner's wife had been stabbed in the side, had received a wound on the bosom, and the fingers of one hand were frightfully cut. The constable was informed that the prisoner had made repeated threats at his wife when she put down the window, or was attempting to do so, and he discovered that the floor of the room was covered with blood. Four knives, one stained with blood, were found upon the prisoner; and a medical certificate, stating the patient to be in a very precarious condition, being handed in, the magistrate resolved to remand the prisoner.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

A DECIDED change of opinion has taken place, both in the Exchange and out of doors, respecting the future intentions of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, owing to the great reductions in the estimates both for the army and navy; indeed, some parties contend that a new loan, except in annuities—and that for a comparatively small amount—will not be required for the public service. The Consol market has, therefore, been firmer this week, and the late decline in prices has been nearly recovered. The 3 per cents. for money, have marked 92½, 4, 4, 2; and for the present account, 92½ to 93½. For the June account the quotations have varied from 93½ to 94½. The reduced 3 per cents. have realised 91½, 4; the new three per cents. 92½, 4; long annuities, 1855, 17 1-16; Bank stock, 21½; India stock, 227; India bonds, 58, to 10s. dis. Exchequer bills, June, 8s. to 4s. dis., and the bonds, 97½ to 98.

There has been an active demand for money for commercial purposes. In Lombard Street, the rate upon first-class bills has been 5½ to 6½ in the Stock Exchange, 6 to 7 per cent. The 4th of the month has passed off exceedingly well.

About £200,000 in gold has come to hand; but an export of £615,000 in gold and silver has taken place to Egypt, India, and China. The stock of gold in the Bank of England is only about £10,000,000. However, as the demand for the Continent has fallen off, some additions have been made to it within the last few days.

Foreign securities have been rather inactive; nevertheless, very little change has taken place in the quotations. Mexican 3 per cents. have realised 22½; Russian 4½ per cents. 95; Spanish New Deferred, 24½ to 25; Turkish 6 per cents. 97½; Venezuela 4½ per cents. 25½; the Deferred, 13; Austrian 5 per cents. 41; and Dutch 1 per cent. 94.

A full average business has been transacted in most railway shares, the prices of which had an upward tendency. Aberdeen have realised 25½; Bristol and Exeter, 87; Caledonian, 53½; Eastern Counties, 94; Great Northern, 95½; Great Western, 62; Lancashire and Yorkshire, 88½; London and Brighton, 102½; London and South Eastern, 95; Midland, 74½; North Eastern, 35; North Staffordshire, 11½; Oxford, Worcester, and Wolverhampton, 27½; South Eastern, 71½; South Wales, 71½.

Joint-stock bank shares have sold as follows:—City, 64½; London and County, 32½; London and Westminster, 47; New South Wales, 42½; Union of Australia, 70½; Union of London, 27½; Western Bank of London, 46½.

Most miscellaneous securities have been tolerably firm. Australian Agricultural, 30½; Canada Company's Bonds, 142½; do. Government 6 per cents. 111½; General Steam Navigation, 27; General Screw Steam Shipping Company, 16½; Peninsula and Oriental Steam, 66½.

METROPOLITAN MARKETS.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Very moderate supplies of English wheat have been on sale in our market this week. For most kinds, the demand has ruled steady, at an advance in the quotations of from 1s. to 2s. per quarter. Foreign wheats—the imports of which have been tolerably good—have been in improved request, and prices have had an upward tendency. Floating cargoes have commanded full currencies. The arrivals of barley having been considerably on the increase, the inquiry for that article has fallen off, and malting parcels have given way fully 1s. per quarter. We have no change to notice in the value of malt, but the demand has become less active. The oat trade has ruled heavy, at 6d. to 1s. per quarter decline. Large supplies have come to hand from abroad, as well as from Ireland. No change has taken place in the value of either beans or peas; but flour has realised rather more money.

ENGLISH CURRENCY.—Essex and Kent White Wheat, 59s. to 76s.; do, Red, 56s. to 70s.; Malting Barley, 38s. to 44s.; Distilling do, 32s. to 36s.; Grinding do, 33s. to 38s.; Malt, 56s. to 74s.; Rye, 41s. to 47s.; Feed Oats, 21s. to 27s.; Potato do, 23s. to 29s.; Fick Beans, 31s. to 34s.; Pigeon, 37s. to 42s.; White Peas, 40s. to 44s.; Maple, 32s. to 35s.; Gray, 32s. to 36s. per quarter. Town made Flour, 63s. to 65s.; Town Households, 52s. to 58s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, 47s. to 50s. per 280lbs.

CATTLE.—Full average time of year supplies of beasts have been on offer this week. On the whole, the beef trade has ruled steady, at the late decline in value. Sheep have come steadily to hand, and about an average business has been transacted in them, at full prices. Lambs, calves, and pigs have sold slowly, at last week's currency. Beef, from 3s. 2d. to 4s. 8d.; mutton, 4s. to 5s. 8d.; lamb, 5s. 8d. to 6s. 8d.; veal, 4s. 2d. to 5s. 8d.; pork, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 8d. per 5lbs. to sink the offal.

NEWGATE AND LEADENHALL.—The demand generally has been steady, as follows:—Beef, from 2s. 10d. to 4s. 2d.; mutton, 3s. 4d. to 4s. 8d.; lamb, 4s. 8d. to 5s. 10d.; veal, 3s. 10d. to 5s.; pork, 3s. 2d. to 4s. 8d.; per 5lbs. by the currence.

TEA.—There is less activity in our market, which is rather extensively supplied—but we have no change to notice in prices. Congou, 8½d. to 2s. 6d.; Ning Yung and Oolong, 10d. to 1s. 9d.; Souchong, 9d. to 2s. 8d.; Flowery Pekoe, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.; Caper, 1s. to 1s. 3d.; Scented Caper, 1s. to 1s. 8d.; Orange Pekoe, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 4d.; Scented Orange Pekoe, 1s. 9d. to 2s. 9d.; Twankay, 8d. to 1s. 2d.; Hyson Skin, 7d. to 1s.; Hyson, 1s. 5d. to 3s. 9d.; Young Hyson, 9d. to 2s.; Imperial, 1s. to 2s. 9d.; Gunpowder, 1s. to 3s. 6d.; Assam, 1s. to 4s. 4d. per lb.

SUGAR.—Dealers operate with much caution; nevertheless, as importers are firm, prices continue to be supported. Barbadoes has changed hands at 38s. to 44s. 6d.; Jamaica, 38s. 6d. to 44s. 6d.; Madras, 34s. to 41s. 6d.; Mauritius, 36s. to 45s. per cwt. Refined goods are in moderate request, at 52s. to 55s. per cwt. The supply in the market is not so extensive.

MOLASSES.—A fair amount of business is doing in this article, at full prices. West India, 13s. 6d. to 21s. per cwt. The stock is moderate.

COFFEE.—Mocha has given way 1s. to 2s. per cwt., with a slow sale. Most other kinds support last week's quotations.

COCOA.—Red Trinidad is worth 44s. to 49s.; Gray, 38s. 6d. to 41s. 6d.; Granada, 34s. to 44s. 6d.; and St. Vincent's, 35s. to 37s. per cwt.

RICE.—The stock is 21,555 tons, against 5,002 tons in 1855; 13,844 in 1854; and 12,758 tons in 1853. On the whole, a fair business is doing at full quotations.

SALTPETRE.—English refined is worth 39s. to 40s. per cwt. Other kinds are dull, and the turn lower. Stock, 4,766 tons, against 10,587 tons in 1855.

NITRATE OF SODA.—This article is selling at £17 to £18 per cwt.

FRUIT.—Our market generally is steady. Currants are selling at 50s. to 106s.; Valencia raisins, 40s. to 46s.; Smyrnas, 25s. to 30s.; Sultanas, 62s. to 65s.; New Orleans, 40s. to 52s.; Muscatels, 60s.; Turkey figs, 40s. to 65s. per cwt.

PROVISIONS.—Owing to the large increase in the supply of foreign butter, prices have given way, with a heavy demand. The bacon market is inactive. Waterford, sizeable, 71s. to 74s.; heavy, 68s. to 70s. Limerick, 68s. to 70s. per cwt. Lard, hams, and most other provisions rule about stationary.

METALS.—Scottish pig iron has sold at 73s. 6d. to 74s. per ton. Rails, at the works, are quoted at £8 7s. 6d. to £8 10s.; common bars, £8 5s. to £8 7s. 6d.; sheets, single, £11 5s. to £11 7s. 6d. per ton. Tin is not so active. Banca, 136s. to 138s. Straits, 134s. to 135s. British, 135s. to 134s.; and refined, 138s. to 140s. Tin plates are very firm. I. C. Coke, 31s. to 31s. 6d.; 1 X ditto, 37s. to 37s. 6d. per box. Lead is not so Irish as of late. British pig, £26 10s. to £27; melted steel, £27 to £27 5s. per ton. Zinc, £30 10s. to £31. Spelter, on the spot, £23 15s. per ton.

COTTON.—There is less activity in the demand for this article, at late rates. Surat, 4d. to 5½d., and Madras, 4d. to 5d. per lb.

HEMP AND FLAX.—The demand for hemp is inactive, and prices are barely supported. Flax is dull.

WOOL.—As the public sales have now commenced, our market, privately, is heavy, and prices are almost nominal.

INDIGO.—The supply announced for the 13th inst. is 9,100 chests. The demand is very inactive, although the stock is 5,000 chests less than last year.

SPRITS.—Rum is steady. Proof Lecwads, 2s. 1d. to 2s. 2d.; East India, 2s. to 2s. 1d. per gallon. No change in the value of brandy. Raw spirit, 10s. 8d. proof; Geneva, 2s. 10d. to 3s. 8d. per gallon.

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